

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES

**POLICY DEPARTMENT B**  
STRUCTURAL AND COHESION POLICIES



Agriculture and Rural Development

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**FISHERIES IN  
MAURITANIA AND  
FISHERIES AGREEMENTS  
WITH THE EU**

NOTE





**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES OF THE  
UNION**

**POLICY DEPARTMENT B: STRUCTURAL AND COHESION POLICIES**

**FISHERIES**

# **FISHERIES IN MAURITANIA AND FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WITH THE EU**

**NOTE**

This document was requested by the Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament.

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**POLICY DEPARTMENT B: STRUCTURAL AND COHESION POLICIES**

**FISHERIES**

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**NOTE**

**Abstract:**

Information note on the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Mauritania for the delegation of the Committee on Fisheries from 3 to 5 November 2010. The note describes fisheries and related activities in Mauritania. It also describes the development of the fisheries agreements concluded between Mauritania and the European Union.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AQIM</b>	Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
<b>CECAF</b>	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
<b>CNROP</b>	Centre National de Recherche Océanographique et des Pêches (Mauritanian Oceanographic and Fisheries Research Centre)
<b>DCP</b>	Direction de la Commande des Pêches (Mauritanian Fisheries Control Department)
<b>DSPCM</b>	Délégation à la Surveillance des Pêches et au Contrôle en Mer (Mauritanian Fisheries Inspection Authority)
<b>EC</b>	European Communities
<b>EDF</b>	European Development Fund
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EPBR</b>	Établissement du Port de la Baie du Repos (Baie du Repos Port Authority)
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GRT</b>	Gross Registered Tonnes
<b>GSPC</b>	Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat
<b>HIPC</b>	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
<b>ICCAT</b>	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
<b>IDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank
<b>IEO</b>	Instituto Español de Oceanografía (Spanish Oceanographic Institute)
<b>IFREMER</b>	Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (French Oceanographic Institute)
<b>IMROP</b>	Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques (Mauritanian Oceanographic Institute)
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>OPEC</b>	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
<b>ORSTOM</b>	Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre mer (French Research Institute for Cooperative Development)
<b>PAN</b>	Autonomous Port of Nouadhibou
<b>PNBA</b>	Banc d'Arguin National Park
<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
<b>SMCP</b>	Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation des Produits de Pêche (Mauritanian Fish Marketing Corporation)
<b>SRCF</b>	Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries
<b>TAC</b>	Total Allowable Catch
<b>VMS</b>	Satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System
<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature



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## SUMMARY

The Mauritanian waters are very rich in fishery resources due to nutrients carried by the Canary Current and cold water upwells.

Since the beginning of the current decade, Mauritania has been in a situation of financial and political instability. Even before 2000, the effects of repeated droughts and efforts to reduce poverty and improve basic services led to a huge increase in external debt, resulting in classification as a Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC). Coups d'état occurred in 2005 and 2008.

Fishing is very important to the Mauritanian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP, exports, income for the national budget and job creation. However, catches made by the Mauritanian fleet are very limited compared to those made by fleets from other countries, which have access to the fishery resources of the Mauritanian EEZ under signed fisheries agreements or fleet licences.

## FISHERY RESOURCES AND THEIR EXPLOITATION

The catch in Mauritanian waters rose rapidly in the first half of the 1970s. Since then, a downwards trend has been observed.

In terms of volume, most of the catch in Mauritanian waters consists of **small and medium-sized pelagic species**, although **octopus** is the most valuable species. The **hake** and **crustacean** catches are also significant.

Traditionally, foreign vessels have caught the bulk of the catch, although, since the 1990s, the **Mauritanian fleet's catch has increased considerably**. In addition to the **European Union**, the activity of **Russian, Ukrainian and Chinese** fleets is important and increasing.

Among the catches made by the European Union fleets, only the **small pelagic** catches are increasing. These are made by vessels from the **Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland**. The **Spanish fleet's** activity has been **diversified** into other fishing categories. This fleet catches the bulk of the cephalopods, crustaceans and black hake.

## MAURITANIAN FISHERIES SECTOR

Fishing is **very important** to the **Mauritanian economy**. It accounts for 10% of GDP and between 35% and 50% of Mauritanian exports. It also provides 29% of the income for the national budget.

Fishing generates **45 000 direct and indirect jobs**, accounting for 36% of all employment. It is estimated that 31% of these jobs are generated by small-scale fishing, and 12% by industrial fishing.

Despite its importance to the Mauritanian economy, **the fisheries sector is relatively undeveloped**. This is due to the **lack of a maritime tradition** and the **remoteness of Nouadhibou**, which used to be the only landing point for the industrial fleet.

Small pelagic species account for 90% of the **catch** volume of the Mauritanian fleet, but only just over 40% of the catch value. Catches of demersal species account for just over

20% of the value and cephalopods (mainly octopus) around 30%, whereas crustaceans only account for 10% of the value.

There are two separate segments to the **Mauritanian fishing fleet**: the industrial fleet and the small-scale fleet. Although 90% of the catch is made by the industrial segment, its impact on job creation and added value is limited.

The fish **processing industry** is relatively undeveloped and underused. Some facilities are obsolete and suffer from hygiene problems.

Mauritania only has **two fishing ports, in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou**. The port of **Nouadhibou** has the best infrastructure and deals with most of the fishing activity. One part is specifically dedicated to the small-scale fleet. All the catches of the industrial fleet are sold in this port, together with 20% of the catches of the inshore and small-scale fleets. **Nouakchott** does not have a fishing port properly speaking. The fishing activity takes place in a landing area to the north of the port, where there is a fish market. Most of the catch is landed in the port of Las Palmas, in the Canary Islands.

The lack of port infrastructure limits the landing options, and the irregularity and inadequacy of air transport make exports difficult. However, **fresh products are exported** from Nouadhibou by air to the Iberian peninsula. Most of the **exports** are handled by the Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation des Produits de Pêche (SMCP), which has a monopoly over the frozen product. Most of the exports are of **frozen octopus** to the **Japanese market**, which offers higher prices than the European market.

## EU-MAURITANIA FISHERIES AGREEMENTS

The EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement is **the most costly signed to date by the EU**. In the 2008-2012 period, the financial contribution is EUR 305 million, in addition to EUR 60 million from the fees paid by shipowners to obtain licences. This Agreement has developed from the 1987 **Fisheries Agreement**, through the 1996 **Cooperation Agreement**, to the 2006 **Fisheries Partnership Agreement**. In the process, aspects associated with the conservation of resources, contribution to development, implementation of a fisheries policy, scientific and technical assistance and business cooperation have been reinforced.

The EU-Mauritania Agreement is hugely important, particularly for trawlers fishing for cephalopods and crustaceans, as they have no alternative fishing grounds except for Guinea-Bissau.

Under the successive agreements, **fishing opportunities** have been reduced, but the financial contributions and fees to be paid by shipowners have increased. In some fishing categories, the **opportunities** are not being used to the full due to problems associated with technical measures, high fees and the boarding problem.

The authorised **fishing zones** have gradually been moved further away from the coast to encourage the development of the small-scale fleet, with an exclusive zone being reserved for the latter and interactions with the industrial fleet being limited, and to reduce the fishing effort on octopus. Although the **technical measures** have gradually been clarified in the successive agreements, they are still a source of problems, resulting in discriminatory treatment for the European Union fleets.

The agreements provide for and regulate **transhipments of catches** and **landings** in Community ports. They also provide for **Mauritanian seamen and observers** to be taken on board Community vessels. To ensure the correct application of the Agreement, a **Joint Committee** and a **Joint Scientific Committee** have been formed.

There is a problem with the **boarding of Community vessels**, which is worsening as time passes. There is evidence that some of these boardings may be unjustified. Despite a Working Group having been set up on this issue, the competent Mauritanian authorities are not proving cooperative.

## FISHERIES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND THIRD COUNTRIES

The exploitation of Mauritanian fishery resources began through agreements with other countries. These fisheries agreements have provided a substantial part of the income in Mauritania's budget and have contributed to the development of the fisheries sector and its integration in the Mauritanian economy.

In the late 1960s, agreements were concluded with **Japan** on cephalopod fishing and pole-and-line and longline tuna fishing. However, Japan has gradually lost interest in the Mauritanian fishing ground. Currently, Mauritania has an agreement with the Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association.

Relations with **China** are extensive and based on the creation of joint enterprises and the construction of infrastructure. The perception of the relations with China is in general much better than that for other countries with which fisheries cooperation or partnership agreements are maintained.

Mauritania signed its first agreement with the **Soviet Union** in 1974. This agreement focused on fishing for small pelagic species. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, most of the Soviet fleet that was operating in Mauritanian waters became Ukrainian, Latvian or Lithuanian flagged vessels. In 2003 the **Russian Federation** concluded a renewable five-year Cooperation Agreement focusing on the small pelagic species. Also in 2003, Mauritania and **Ukraine** concluded a Cooperation Agreement.

Mauritania and **Senegal** have a bilateral agreement which allows 250 wooden-hulled Senegalese vessels to fish in Mauritanian waters. These vessels also suffer from the boarding problem, which generally stems from the fact that 15% of their catches are not landed in Mauritania.

In 1985 a **Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (SRCF)** was set up, consisting of Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. Its objectives are to harmonise over time the policies of the Member States on conservation, preservation and exploitation of their fishery resources and to reinforce their cooperation for the benefit of their respective populations.

In 1991 the **Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fish Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE)** was set up in Abidjan. The founding members of INFOPÊCHE were Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.





## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1.1. Geography

Mauritania is officially known as the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (*Yumhuriya Islamiya Mauritaniya*). It lies in northwest Africa, in the Sahel, between the meridians of 4° 48' and 16° 30' west and between the parallels of 14° 45' and 27° 22' north. It occupies an area of 1 030 700 km<sup>2</sup>. To the west it borders the Atlantic Ocean, with a coastline extending 754 km. To the southwest it borders Senegal, with a border extending 813 km, consisting of the Senegal River. The longest border (2 237 km) separates Mauritania from Mali to the east and southeast. It borders Algeria (463 km border) to the northeast and Western Sahara to the north and northwest (1 561 km border). In 1976 Mauritania occupied the southern third of Western Sahara, but withdrew in 1979 under attack from the Polisario Front.

**Map 1: Geography of Mauritania**



There is very limited rainfall, which generally does not exceed 100 mm per year. The Sahara Desert occupies virtually the whole country, apart from a narrow coastal strip. Even so, this coastal strip is known as the Atlantic Coastal Desert. Although rainfall is virtually non-existent, the mist generated over the Atlantic Ocean by the ocean current from the Canary Islands provides some moisture, allowing lichens and drought-tolerant vegetation to grow. In addition, the ecosystem in the south of Mauritania is an acacia savannah. Since the 1960s, the Sahara Desert has gradually been expanding as a result of repeated and intense droughts. These repeated droughts have stimulated Mauritania's interest in the fisheries sector since the 1970s.

The country's highest point is Kediet ej Jill at 910 m, close to the border with Western Sahara. The lowest point is in the salt flat at Sebkheth Te-n-Dghamcha, to the north of Nouakchott, which is 5 m below sea level.

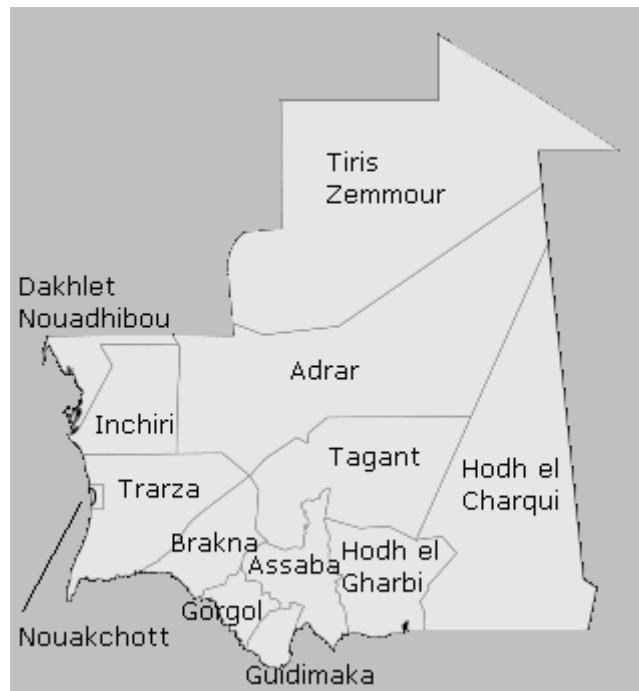
## 1.2. Population

In July 2010 the population was estimated at 3 129 486 inhabitants. The population is concentrated in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Rosso, and along the Senegal River in the regions of Assaba and the two Hodhs. This concentration of the population on the coast has arisen due to the recurrent droughts in the Sahel. This has boosted the activities of fishing communities, which were already present in Senegal, but much less widespread in Mauritania.

The capital is Nouakchott, but a large part of the economic activity is concentrated in Nouadhibou. Both cities are located on the Atlantic Ocean coast. In the country's interior, the main cities are Tidjikja, Atar and Chinguetti. The official language is Arabic, although other languages are also spoken. Fula, Soninké and Wolof are recognised as national languages. A large part of the population also speaks French.

Administratively, Mauritania is divided into 12 regions (*régions*), which are subdivided into 52 departments (*moughataa*). The capital, Nouakchott, also has its own district.

**Map 2: Administrative division of Mauritania**



## 1.3. Economy

The currency is the ouguiya (MRO). This replaced the CFA franc in 1973 at an exchange rate of 1 ouguiya to 5 CFA francs. Each ouguiya is divided into five khoum. Mauritania's economy is one of the least developed in the world, and unemployment stands at around 30%. In September 2010, 1 euro was equal to 363 ouguiya.

Most of the population is employed in agriculture and livestock breeding. The bulk of the livestock breeding is carried out by the nomadic population. However, droughts have reduced the areas that can be used for agriculture and accentuated the process of migration to the cities. These climatic processes have also led to the migration and sedentarisation of a nomadic population that in times past was in the majority.

Mauritania has considerable iron ore resources in the mountainous area close to the border with Western Sahara, which form the bulk of its exports.

Fishing is very important to the Mauritanian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP, exports, income for the national budget and job creation. However, catches made by the Mauritanian fleet are very limited compared to those made by fleets from other countries, which have access to the fishery resources of the Mauritanian EEZ under signed fisheries agreements or fleet licences.

#### **1.4. Development of the economy and political situation**

Mauritania won its independence from France on 28 November 1960. The Mauritanian Constitution was approved in a referendum on 12 July 1991 and establishes an Islamic Republic under a presidential system. The President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for a five-year terms and is regarded as Head of State and part of the executive. The Prime Minister is chosen by the President.

The legislative is based on a bicameral system with a National Assembly (*Al Jamiya Al Wataniya*) and a Senate (*Majlis al-Shuyukh*). The National Assembly consists of 95 members, elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term. The Senate consists of 56 members, of which 53 are elected by municipal representatives and 3 by direct election. One-third is replaced every two years. The President of the Senate stands in for the President of the Republic as Head of State.

Since the beginning of the current decade, Mauritania has been in a situation of financial and political instability. Even before 2000, the effects of repeated droughts and efforts to reduce poverty and improve basic services led to a huge increase in external debt. The situation became so serious that in February 2000 Mauritania was classified as a Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) and a large part of its external debt was substantially reduced. The cancellation of its debt was suspended during 2004 and 2005, although this resumed in July 2006.

In December 2001 a new framework was created to encourage foreign investment, through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The PRSP's long-term objectives (2010-2015) are the reduction of poverty and the improvement of human development, by speeding up economic growth driven by the private sector and by strengthening institutional capacity.

This strategy has come up against various obstacles. The dependence of the Mauritanian economy on iron and fish exports make it very vulnerable to fluctuations on the international markets and, in the case of fishery products, to the gradual fall in prices. Adverse climatic conditions and institutional instability have also prevented these objectives from being achieved. For example, the PRSP set an objective of reducing the number of people living below the poverty line to under 27% by 2010. However, in 2004 this figure was still around 47%. The 2006 PRSP set an objective of 25% for 2025.

On 3 August 2005 members of the armed forces overthrew the government of President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya in a coup d'état. The coup leaders, who termed themselves the Military Council for Justice and Democracy, appointed the Head of the National Police, Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, as the country's new President. The European Union and the United States condemned the military coup and called for the Constitution to be restored. The African Union temporarily expelled Mauritania. The overthrown president temporarily

remained in Niger. On 7 August Parliament was dissolved and a constitutional referendum was announced for a year later. The legitimate government resigned and the Mauritanian ambassador to France, Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubacar, was named as the new Prime Minister. On 11 August Ely Ould Mohamed Vall took over all the functions of the legislative.

On 26 June 2006 a referendum was held on the reform of the Constitution and the limitation of the government's mandate. Parliamentary elections were held on 19 November and 3 December 2006. Presidential elections took place in March 2007, with Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi being elected. In September 2007 the government passed a law criminalising slavery. In 2006 the International Monetary Fund and Mauritania concluded a three-year agreement to reduce poverty and stimulate growth.

On 6 August 2008 another military coup occurred, following the replacement of the Chief of Staff. President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi and the Prime Minister, Yahya Ould Ahmed El Waghef, were removed from office. A military junta was formed with General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz as President and another 11 military officers, who assumed power and appointed Mulay Uld Mohamed Laghdaf as Prime Minister. This coup occurred one week after the most recent Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement came into force.

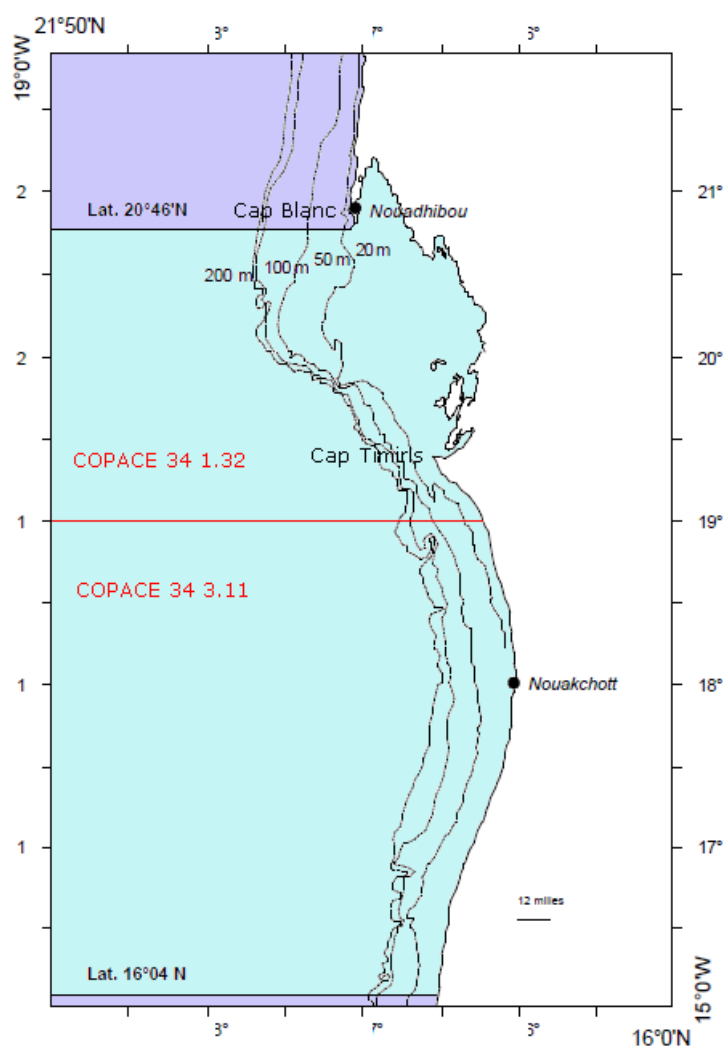
Various bodies, such as the United Nations and the European Union, condemned the coup, together with countries such as the United States, France, Spain and Algeria, which had close relations with Mauritania. Neighbouring countries such as Algeria and Senegal refused to recognise the new government. For its part, the African Union condemned the coup and suspended Mauritania's rights in the organisation. The United States and France suspended their non-humanitarian aid and both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank suspended their programmes. Following presidential elections in July 2009, these organisations agreed to meet with the government to discuss the resumption of these programmes. On 5 August 2009 Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was appointed President, with Mulay Uld Mohamed Laghdaf remaining in the post of Prime Minister.

Recently, the activities of groups such as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) and Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have been creating tensions beyond the national environment.

## 2. OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

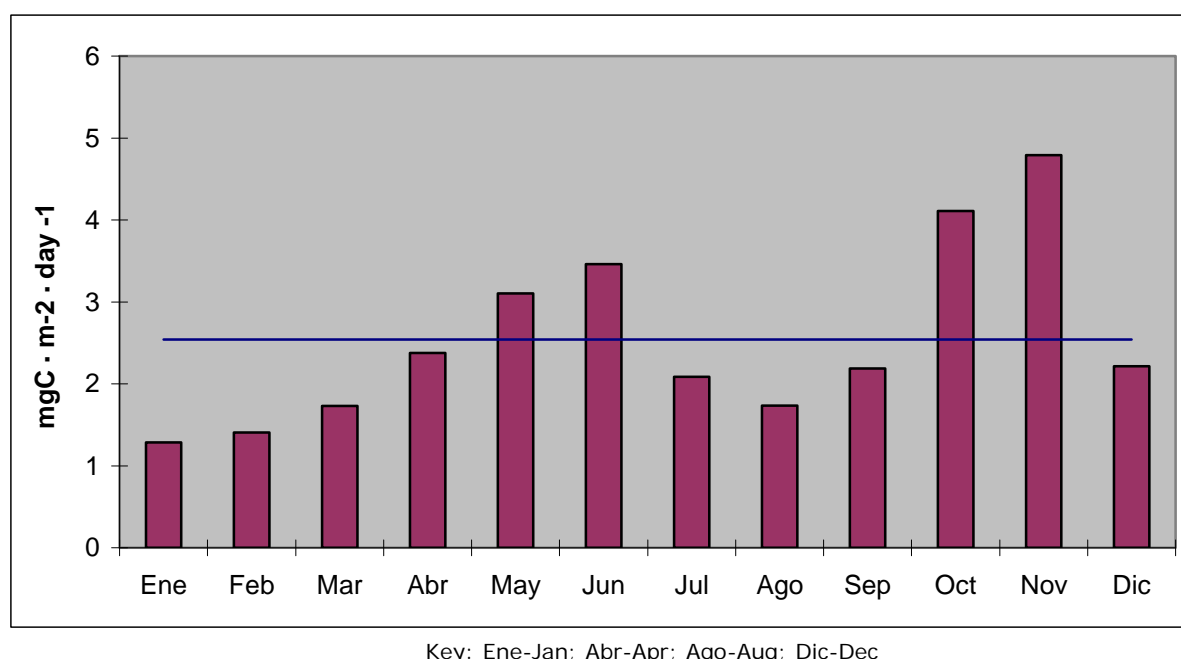
Order No 88/120 of 31 August 1988 defines the territorial waters, contiguous zone and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Mauritania. Mauritania's EEZ therefore has the following limits: to the north, it borders the waters of Western Sahara at Cap Blanc, at latitude  $20^{\circ} 36' N$ ; to the south, the EEZ of Senegal at parallel  $16^{\circ} 04' N$ ; and to the west, the EEZ of Cape Verde. These limits have not been contested. Mauritania's EEZ therefore covers an area of 234 000 km<sup>2</sup>, of which around 16% corresponds to the continental shelf. The coastline is 754 km long.

**Map 3: Limits of Mauritanian EEZ and isobaths**



The seabed is generally sandy, although there are stretches of rocky banks close to the coast, to the south of Cap Timiris. Between Cap Blanc and Cap Timiris, the continental shelf extends 80 miles from the coast, whereas to the south, it only extends 30 miles.

The Mauritanian waters are highly productive. Their average productivity throughout the year is  $2.541 \text{ mgC} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{day}^{-1}$ . Productivity is generally higher in the May-June period and, in particular, in October-November. It remains at a higher and more constant level in the northern zone, from Cap Blanc to Cap Timiris.

**Graph 1: Productivity of Mauritanian waters**

The most important ocean current is the cold current from the Canaries, which brings cold water rich in nutrients to the southwest. Other currents, such as the Guinea Current, are weaker than the Canary Current. However, they have an important role to play in the upwells of water from the seabed. These upwells are very important in terms of the productivity of the Mauritanian waters and the abundance of the main target species. The offshore winds are very important in terms of the intensity of the upwells. As a result, there are seasonal and year-to-year variations, caused by the strength of the offshore winds, although these are modulated by the effect of the ocean currents.

In Mauritania there are four Marine Protected Areas. Two of these, the Banc d'Arguin National Park and Cap Blanc, are situated in the north on the coast, whereas Chat Tboul and Diawling are in the south, close to the border with Senegal.

**Table 1: Marine Protected Areas**

Designation of the area	Type	Date of designation	Total surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Marine surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	IUCN category
Banc d'Arguin	National Park	24/06/1976	12 075	6 245	<b>II</b>
	Wetland (Ramsar Convention) <sup>1</sup>	22/10/1982	11 730	6 000	<b>VI</b>
	World Heritage <sup>2</sup>	01/01/1989	12 000	600	<b>VI</b>
Cap Blanc	Satellite Reserve	02/04/1986	2 100	1 680	<b>Ia</b>
Chat Tboul	Wetland (Ramsar Convention)	10/11/2000	155		
Diawling	National Park	01/01/1990	130		<b>II</b>

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.ramsar.org/key\\_conv\\_e.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/key_conv_e.htm)

<sup>2</sup><http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=182>

The Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA) is the largest and most important marine protected area in Mauritania. It lies between Cap Blanc and Cap Timiris. It has the maximum level of protection and entry into the park is restricted, except for the hundred or so inhabitants of the Imraguen tribe and for the transit of caravans. The Imraguen use unique and traditional fishing methods.

The park has a swamp area and also a marine area, which covers one-third of the Mauritanian coastline, 15% of the continental shelf and 60% of the seabed that is less than 20 metres deep. Most of the park area is state owned. There are also various Neolithic archaeological remains, particularly shell mounds. Some of these are several kilometres long and tens of metres high.

**Map 4: Banc d'Arguin National Park**



The PNBA was created in 1976 to protect a breeding area for endemic and migratory bird species. At that time, protection of the marine ecosystems was not included. The PNBA protected the continued fishing activity of the Imraguen, who fished for grey mullet by standing in the water and interacting with dolphins. Until the late 1970s, the Imraguen were in fact the only fishing community in a region with a nomadic tradition.

The land part of the Banc d'Arguin National Park is a plain that acts as a transition from the Sahara Desert to the Atlantic Ocean. Although there is limited rainfall (40 mm/m<sup>2</sup>/year), mists cool the temperatures and allow the growth of drought-tolerant vegetation. The marine area forms part of the Mauritanian continental shelf, with a very gradual slope, depths of less than 5 m and 15 islands. In addition to a wide variety of fish typical of the Canary-Saharan Bank, there are four species of turtle.

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement signed between the European Community and Mauritania in 2006 provides that, from the total financial contribution paid by the European Community, EUR 1 million per year must be used for the Banc d'Arguin National Park.

Diawling National Park consists of wet areas in the Senegal River delta. These areas alternate between the freshwater of the river and its seasonal floods by seawater that flows up the estuary. This transition encourages huge biological diversity and plays an important role in the reproduction of fish in the Senegal River.



### 3. FISHERY RESOURCES AND THEIR EXPLOITATION

#### KEY FINDINGS

- The catch in Mauritanian waters rose rapidly in the first half of the 1970s. Since then, a downwards trend has been observed.
- In terms of volume, most of the catch in Mauritanian waters consists of **small and medium-sized pelagic species**, although **octopus** is the most valuable species. The **hake** and **crustacean** catches are also significant.
- Traditionally, foreign vessels have caught the bulk of the catch although, since the 1990s, the **Mauritanian fleet's catch has increased considerably**.
- In addition to the **European Union**, the activity of **Russian, Ukrainian and Chinese** fleets is important and increasing.
- Of the catches made by the European Union fleets, only the **small pelagic** catches are increasing. These are made by vessels from the **Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland**.
- The **Spanish fleet's** activity has been **diversified** into other fishing categories. This fleet catches the bulk of the cephalopods, crustaceans and black hake.

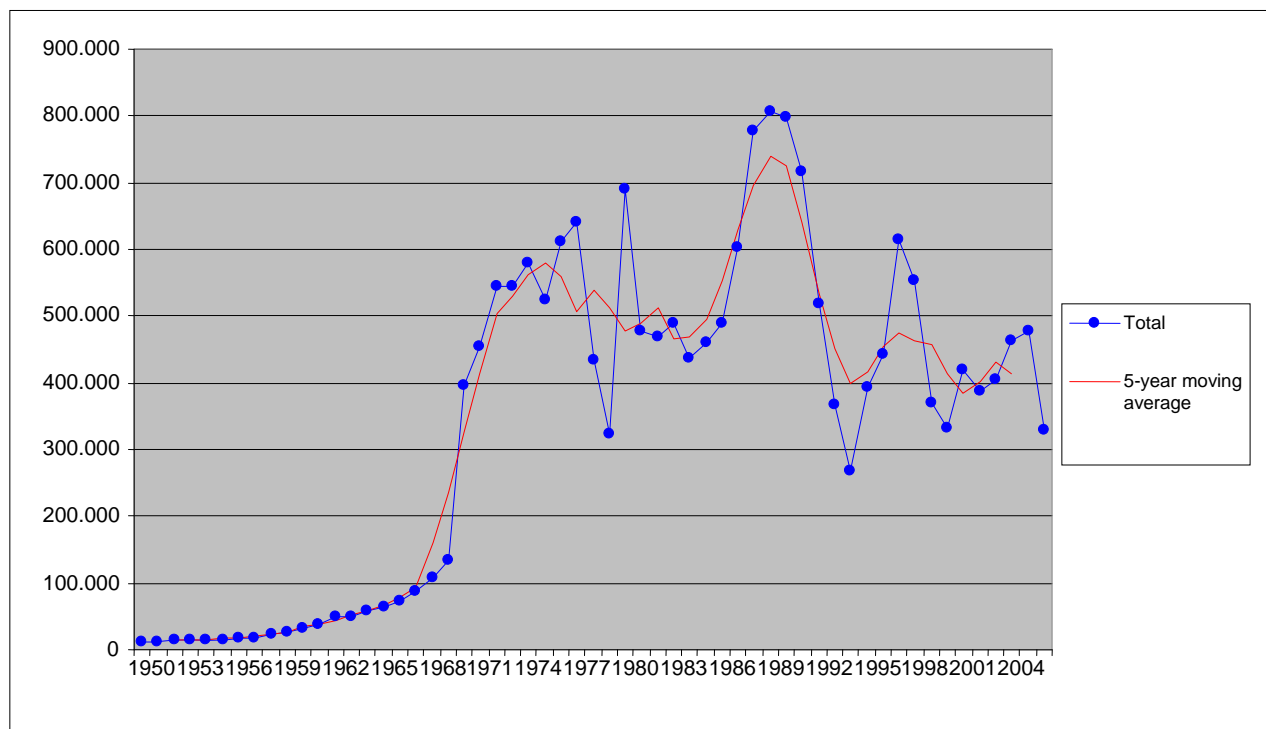
In Mauritania, most of the fishing production stems from the extractive activity in the marine environment. River fishing is insignificant and often seasonal, and is intended only for local consumption.

**Aquaculture** is limited to experimental oyster farms situated in Baie de l'Etoile, close to Nouadhibou. Although production is limited to a few thousand oysters, the speed of growth is very satisfactory, due to the upwelling of waters rich in nutrients. There is also a limited amount of tilapia fattening in the Senegal River, particularly in the Fouta Lele reservoir.

#### 3.1. Catches in Mauritanian waters

The catch in Mauritanian waters rose rapidly in the first half of the 1970s. Since then, a downwards trend has been observed. However, between 1984 and 1994 there was a peak, due to the increased catch of small pelagic species, particularly pilchards.

The following graphs show the catches made in terms of five-year moving averages in order to smooth the effect of fluctuations in the populations of small and medium-sized pelagic species.

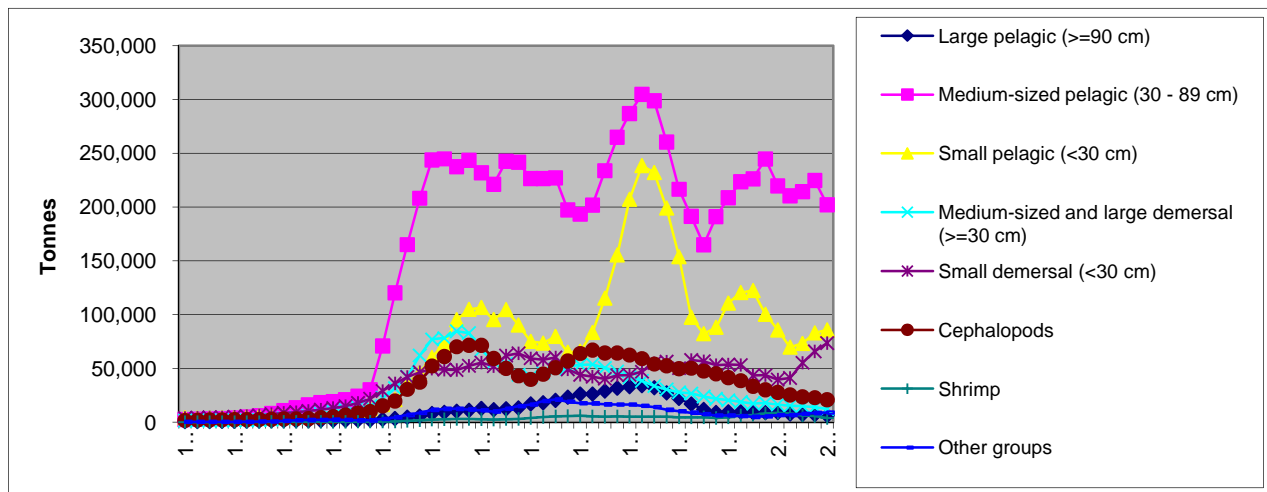
**Graph 2: Total catch in Mauritanian waters**

**Source:** Sea Around Us ([www.seaaroundus.org](http://www.seaaroundus.org)), developed by the author.

In terms of volume, most of the catch in Mauritanian waters consists of small and medium-sized pelagic species. There are pelagic species that are more commonly found in tropical waters, but there are also warm-water species. The warm-water small pelagic species include the European anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*), Atlantic horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*), European pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus*) and largehead hairtail (*Trichiurus lepturus*). The tropical small pelagic species include the round sardinella (*Sardinella aurita*), Madeiran sardinella (*Sardinella maderensis*), chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) and Cunene horse mackerel (*Trachurus trecae*).

The small pelagic species live in schools and migrate, and their populations fluctuate widely. These fluctuations are reflected in the catch volume since their boom time in the 1970s. In recent years, the catch of medium-sized pelagic species has remained on average around 200 000 tonnes per year, with the small pelagic catch being around 100 000 tonnes. The peak observed in the second half of the 1980s was due to an increase in catches of pilchards and round sardinella, and also chub mackerel and European anchovy. Catches of largehead hairtail were very significant from the 1970s onwards, but fell rapidly in the 1990s. They have since recovered to a certain extent.

Fishing for small pelagic species developed following the agreement between Mauritania and the Soviet Union in 1974. Currently, the small pelagic species are caught by fleets from over 20 countries. In addition to the fleets from European Union countries (the Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland), the fleets from the Russian Federation and Ukraine are also very extensive. In addition, there are a number of supertrawlers with fleet licences.

**Graph 3: Catch by functional group (5-year moving averages)**

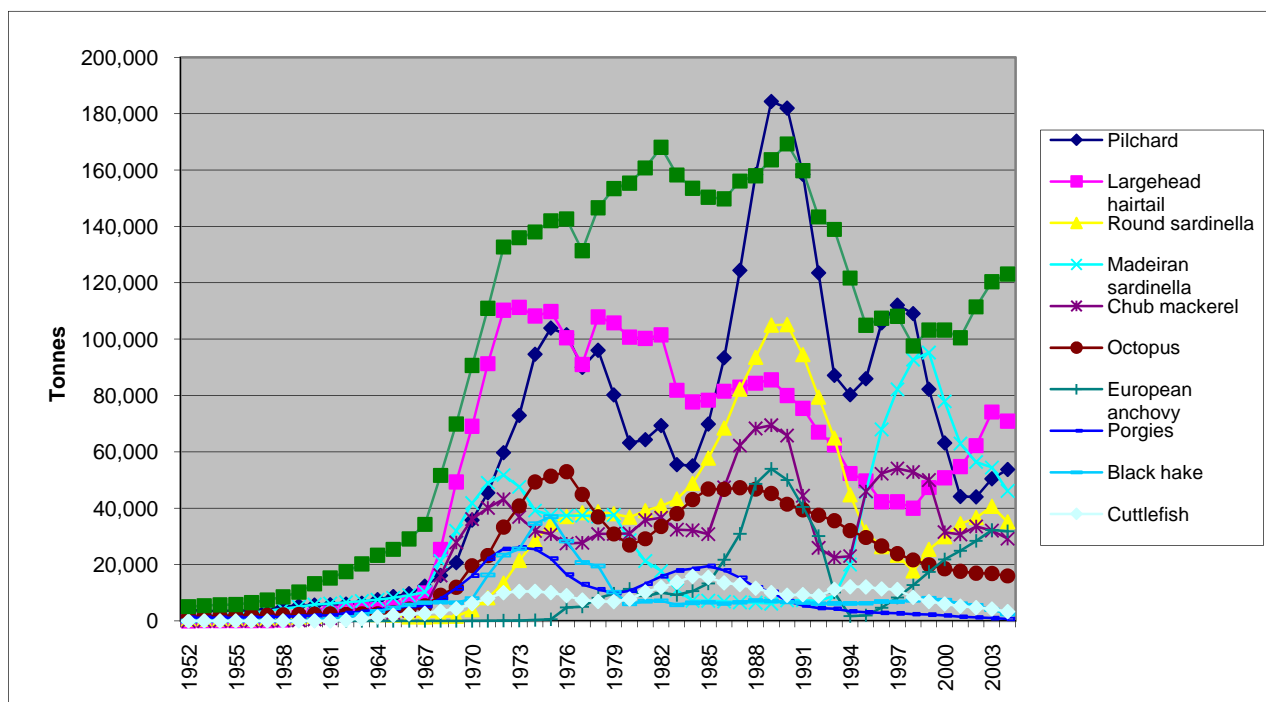
Source: Sea Around Us ([www.seaaroundus.org](http://www.seaaroundus.org)), developed by the author.

Although catches of large pelagic species are lower in volume, their value is higher than that for catches of small and medium-sized pelagic species. On the open sea, the most abundant large pelagic species are the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and tunas such as the bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*). There are also coastal tunas such as the little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*), West Africa Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus tritor*), Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*) and plain bonito (*Orcynopsis unicolor*).

The large pelagic species are fished exclusively by foreign vessels using either pole-and-line and longline or seine net. Given the migratory nature of these species, vessels are forced to fish over a very wide area. In addition, the Mauritanian waters form the northern limit for the tropical tunas, whereas the swordfish travels into European waters. Sometimes the tuna vessels, particularly the seine netters, focus their activity on more southerly waters, close to the Gulf of Guinea. The activity of tuna vessels in Mauritanian waters is therefore irregular.

There are numerous demersal species in the Mauritanian waters. The ones that are of most economic interest are the octopus (*Octopus spp.*), hake (*Merluccius spp.*), deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*), white shrimp or southern pink shrimp (*Penaeus notialis*) and crawfish (*Palinurus spp.*). Other species of cephalopods and porgies are also important. Octopus catches fell from the middle of the 1970s to the middle of the 1980s. Since then they have fallen gradually. Catches of black hake reached a peak in the middle of the 1970s.

The catches of demersal species (including crustaceans and cephalopods) are lower in volume than those of pelagic species, but their value is much higher. The highest unit value of these catches is for the deep-water rose shrimp, although the value does vary considerably. The unit value of the common octopus catches is also high, whereas that of other octopus species is somewhat lower. The unit value of black hake catches has lately been higher than that of porgies.

**Graph 4: Catch by species (5-year moving averages)**

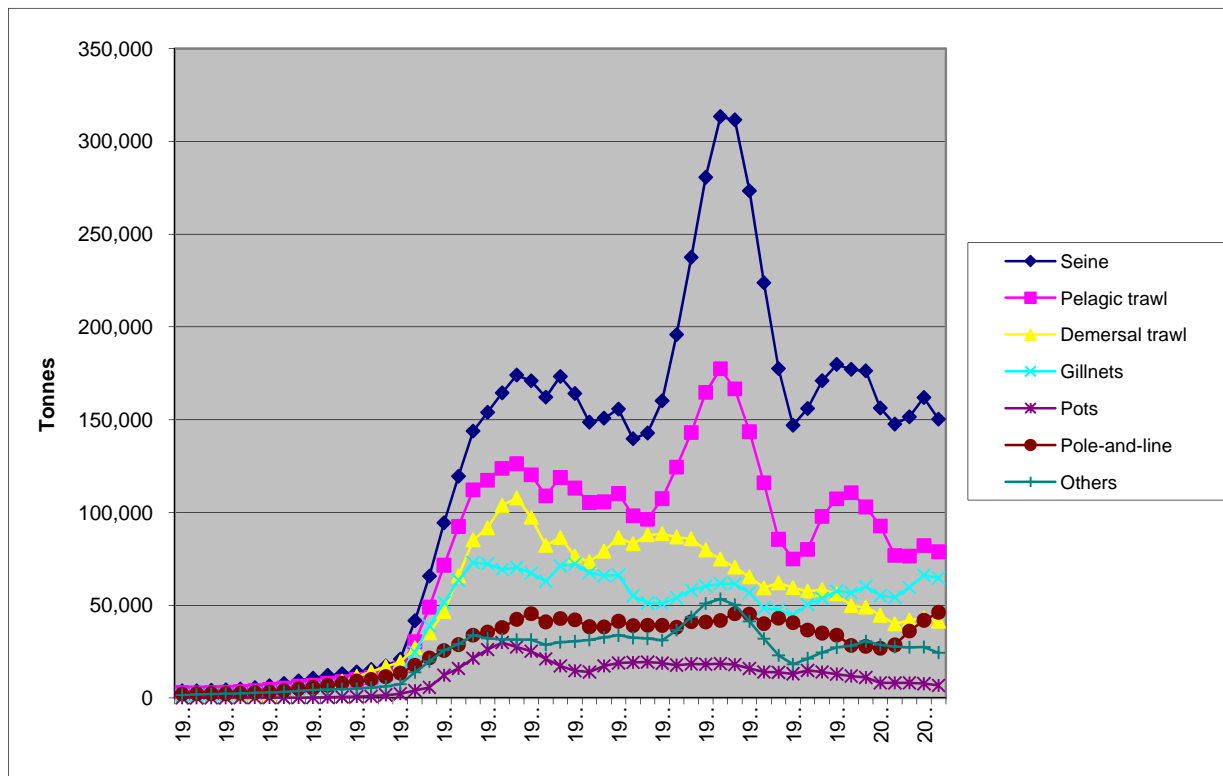
Source: Sea Around Us ([www.seaaroundus.org](http://www.seaaroundus.org)), developed by the author.

There are two species of hake: black hake (*Merluccius senegalensis*), which is the most important, and Benguela hake (*Merluccius polli*). Traditionally these have been fished by foreign vessels, although the Mauritanian fleet began to catch these in 1998. However, this segment has developed little.

Fishing for crustaceans began in the 1960s with Spanish trawlers. This fishery was left to the foreign vessels until, at the beginning of the 2000s, a shrimp fleet developed in Mauritania using vessels that had abandoned cephalopod fishing. There are actually two different crustacean fisheries. The first involves fishing for coastal crustaceans, with the target species being the white shrimp or southern pink shrimp (*Penaeus notialis*) and the Caramote prawn (*Penaeus kerathurus*). These are caught between the parallels of 19° 00 N and 20° 00 N. The second involves fishing for deep-water crustaceans, with the target species being the deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) and the striped red shrimp (*Aristeus varidens*). These deep-water crustaceans are fished further to the south, between the parallels of 17° 20 N and 18° 50 N. Fishing effort was reduced at the beginning of the 1990s, but has since developed again, although it varies widely.

The arrival of the Japanese fleet in Mauritanian waters at the end of the 1960s marked the start of fishing for cephalopods. Since then, octopus has been the focus of demersal fishing activities.

With regard to the gear used, most of the catches in Mauritanian waters are made using seine nets and, to a lesser extent, pelagic trawls. The gear has changed in line with the development in catches of small and medium-sized pelagic species, with a peak at the beginning of the 1990s.

**Graph 5: Catch by type of gear (5-year moving averages)**

**Source:** Sea Around Us ([www.seaaroundus.org](http://www.seaaroundus.org)), developed by the author.

Catches made using demersal trawls have changed in line with the development in largehead hairtail catches. Catches made using pots have decreased less sharply than octopus catches, due to the impact of the pots.

The catch made by the Mauritanian fleet in its own waters has only exceeded the total catch of other countries since 2006. These catches initially grew up to 1970, but only accounted for 10% of all catches made in Mauritanian waters. After a sequence of small increases followed by declines, the catch made by the Mauritanian fleet only began to grow rapidly and continuously in 1995. This catch currently accounts for half of the total catch volume and around 55% of its value.

Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, most of the catches were made by its fleet. Even after that, the Russian and Ukrainian fleets and, to a lesser extent, the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian fleets continued to make a large part of the catches, although the catches of the Russian and Estonian fleets went into rapid decline, with those of the Ukrainian and Latvian fleets beginning to reduce in 1997. All these fleets were mainly involved in fishing for the small pelagic species. Currently, the Lithuanian catches exceed those of Ukraine and are similar to those of Italy. The role played by the catches of the Dutch fleet since 1996 should be noted, with this fleet concentrating on the small pelagic species. For its part, Japan's catches have reduced since 2000.

Up to 1975, Spain's catches in Mauritanian waters were significant and growing. That was the period when Western Sahara was Spanish territory. Following Spain's withdrawal from Western Sahara, its fleet's catches fell until they began to recover in 1979. The growth in Spanish catches increased from 1993, with the cyclical increase in small pelagic catches. However, as with the Ukrainian catches, they began to decline from 1997.

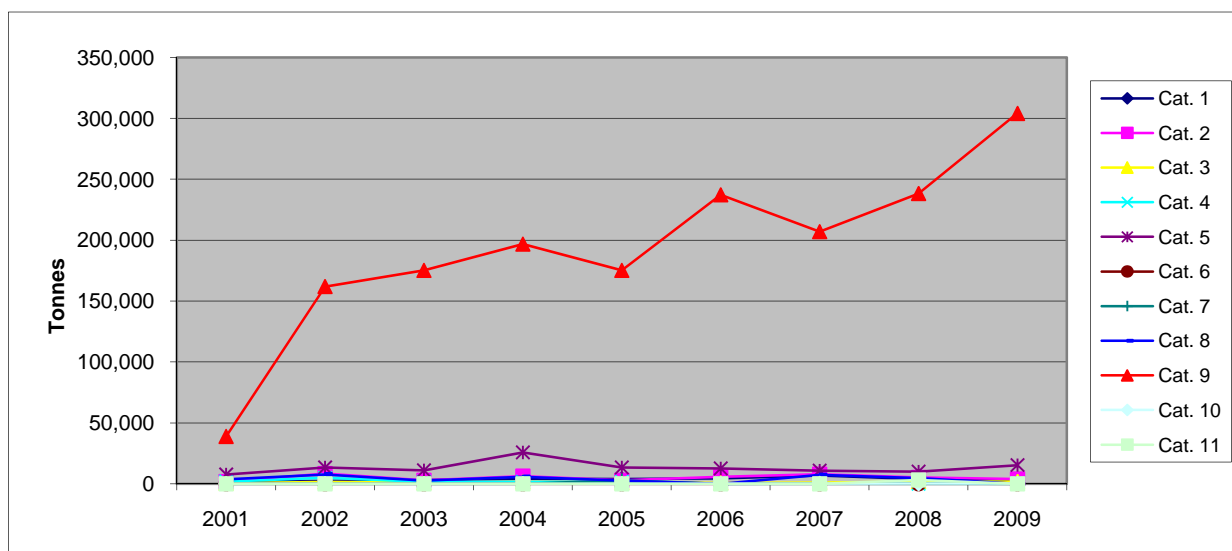
Senegal's catch increased significantly during the first half of the 1970s. This growth slowed until a peak was reached in 1990. Catches then fell until the end of the decade and subsequently stabilised.

### 3.2. Catches of European Union fleets

The catches of European Union fleets in Mauritanian waters have gradually increased. In the main, this growth is due to the development in catches of **small pelagic species (Category 9)**, which form around 90% of all the EU fleet's catches. Under the 1996 Cooperation Agreement, fishing opportunities for pelagic trawling were defined by number of vessels instead of by tonnage. These fishing opportunities were used almost exclusively by the Dutch fleet. Subsequently, since the EU's enlargement in 2004, these opportunities have also been used by the Latvian and Lithuanian fleets, which were already present in the area from Soviet Union times. Since 2008, the Polish fleet has also taken advantage of the fishing opportunities for small pelagic species, and in 2009 made 14% of the catches in this category.

Although the number of vessels is not particularly high and the number of fishing hours is lower than that for other categories, these vessels are much larger than those in other fishing categories. The European small pelagic fleets operate in different ways. The fleets from the Baltic countries generally operate throughout the year in Mauritanian waters, catching Atlantic horse mackerel and round sardinella. They tranship their catch to cargo vessels, which then take this catch to their countries of origin or to Russia for preserving. However, for the western European fleets, the Mauritanian waters form a seasonal fishing ground, which is used when the herring and mackerel fishing opportunities in European waters have been exhausted.

**Graph 6: EU catch by fishing category**



**Source:** Developed by the author. Compiled from various sources

Some Community flagged vessels are chartered by Mauritanian individuals or companies, or under private agreements, and on occasions have been the subject of media attention. This has been the case with certain Irish or Dutch flagged pelagic supertrawlers, whose activities have been startling at times. Some of these were previously excluded from the Agreement with Mauritania.

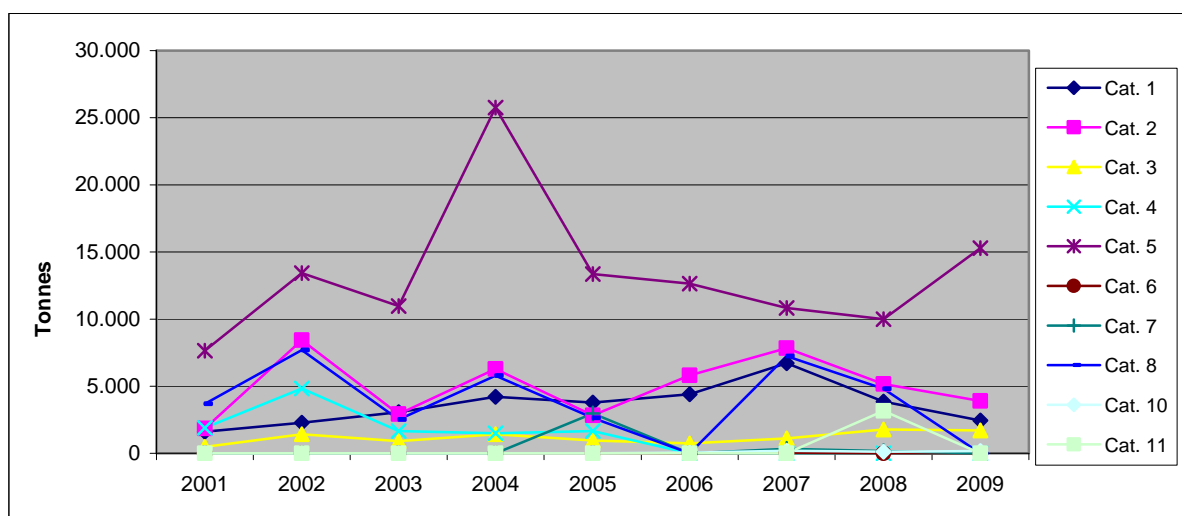
**Cephalopods (Category 5)** only account for 5% of the catch volume of the EU fleets. However, their value is considerably higher than that of the small pelagic species. It is in this category that the majority of Community vessels operate, with the highest number of fishing hours. Around 85% of the cephalopod catch is made by the Spanish fleet, and 10% by the Italian fleet. The remainder is distributed equally between the Greek and Portuguese fleets. The 2004 peak was solely due to an increase in activity by the Italian fleet.

The following catches are also important by value, although not by volume: **black hake (Category 2)**, **crustaceans other than crawfish and crab (Category 1)** and **demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls (Category 3)**.

After cephalopod fishing, fishing for crustaceans (**Category 1**) involves the second highest number of Member State flag vessels. It is also in second place for number of fishing hours. In the case of crustaceans other than crawfish and crab, the Spanish fleet once again predominates, although the Italian and Portuguese fleets catch a sizeable volume, but on a more irregular basis.

Most of the catches of black hake and demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls are made by the Spanish fleet, although the Portuguese fleet does operate in these areas on occasions. The number of vessels operating in these categories is lower than the number operating in other categories.

**Graph 7: EU catch by fishing category (except for pelagic trawling)**



Source: Developed by the author. Compiled from various sources

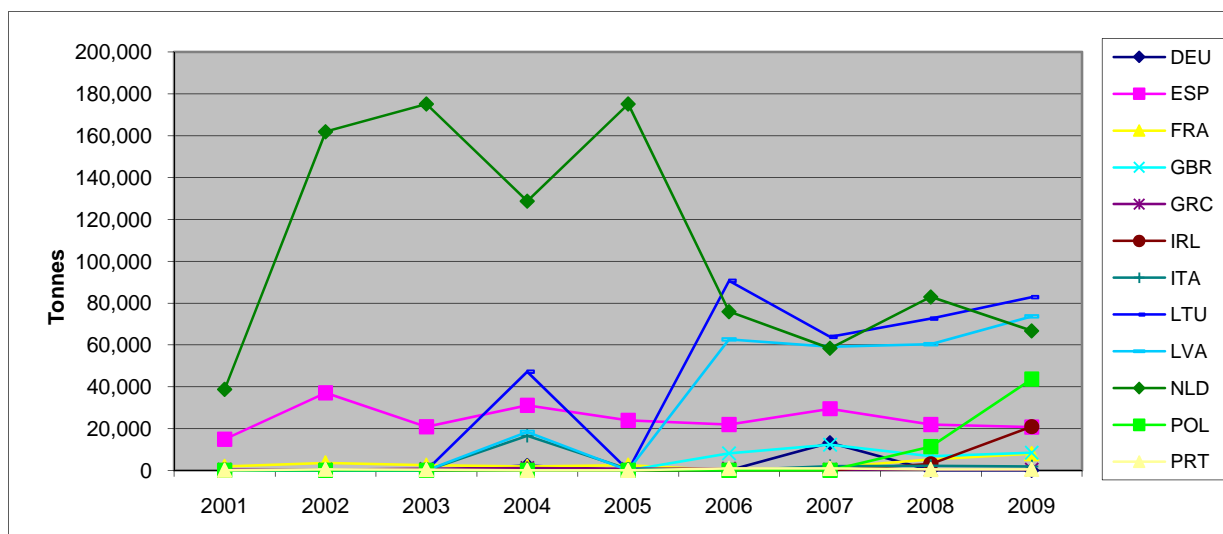
The activity of **pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners (Category 8)** is also significant, although more irregular. The target species of surface longliners is the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), although they also fish for two species of shark: the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and the shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). Pole-and-line tuna vessels fish using round sardinella (*Sardinella aurita*) as live bait. This form of fishing is in decline because it cannot compete with the seine netters.

The activity of **tuna seiners (Category 7)** is much more irregular, which is due to the migratory behaviour of tuna. In addition, given that the Mauritanian waters form the northern limit for tropical tunas, they form an occasional fishing ground for the tuna seiners.

With regard to the catches made by the various Member States, there is one group of countries whose activity is focused on pelagic trawling and which make the bulk of the catches in this category. These countries are **the Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland**. The Netherlands traditionally caught the majority, but has shared its fishing opportunities with the other three countries. Poland's catches are clearly on the increase.

**Spain's** position is quite peculiar. This due to its fishing tradition in the area, to a diversified fleet and to the proximity of the port of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. As a result, its catches are much more diverse than those of other Member States. Spain makes the bulk of its catches in categories of species with a high value, such as cephalopods, black hake and shrimps. It is also dominant in tuna catches, both by seine netters and by pole-and-line vessels and surface longliners, although in the latter case its activity is much more irregular and there are years when it catches nothing.

**Graph 8: Member States' catch in Mauritanian waters**



**Source:** Developed by the author. Compiled from various sources

France focuses on the categories of pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners and on pelagic freezer trawlers. Italy catches shrimps and cephalopods, while Greece catches cephalopods. Portugal's catches are also quite diverse, but much lower than those of Spain. Portugal catches shrimp, black hake and cephalopods. In 2008 Ireland used the fresh pelagic fishing opportunities, whereas in 2009 it made a large number of catches by pelagic trawling.



## 4. MAURITANIAN FISHERIES SECTOR

### KEY FINDINGS

- Fishing is **very important** to the **Mauritanian economy**. It accounts for 10% of GDP and between 35% and 50% of Mauritanian exports. It also provides 29% of the income for the national budget.
- Fishing generates **45 000 direct and indirect jobs**, accounting for 36% of all employment. It is estimated that 31% of these jobs are generated by small-scale fishing, and 12% by industrial fishing.
- Despite its importance to the Mauritanian economy, **the fisheries sector is relatively undeveloped**.
- This is due to the **lack of a maritime tradition** and the **remoteness of Nouadhibou**, which used to be the only landing point for the industrial fleet.
- Small pelagic species account for 90% of the **catch** volume of the Mauritanian fleet, but only just over 40% of the catch value. Catches of demersal species account for just over 20% of the value and cephalopods (mainly octopus) around 30%, whereas crustaceans only account for 10% of the value.
- There are two separate segments to the **Mauritanian fishing fleet**: the industrial fleet and the small-scale fleet. Although 90% of the catch is made by the industrial segment, its impact on job creation and added value is limited.
- The fish **processing industry** is relatively undeveloped and underused. Some facilities are obsolete and suffer from hygiene problems.
- Mauritania only has **two fishing ports, in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou**.
- The port of **Nouadhibou** has the best infrastructure and deals with most of the fishing activity. One part is specifically dedicated to the small-scale fleet. All the catches of the industrial fleet are sold in this port, together with 20% of the catches of the inshore and small-scale fleets.
- **Nouakchott** does not have a fishing port properly speaking. The fishing activity takes place in a landing area to the north of the port, where there is a fish market.
- Most of the catch is landed in the port of Las Palmas, in the Canary Islands.
- The lack of port infrastructure limits the landing options, and the irregularity and inadequacy of air transport make exports difficult. However, **fresh products are exported** from Nouadhibou by air to the Iberian peninsula.
- Most of the **exports** are handled by the Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation des Produits de Pêche (SMCP), which has a monopoly over the frozen product.
- Most of the exports are of **frozen octopus** to the **Japanese market**, which offers higher prices than the European market.

### 4.1. Fishing activity in Mauritania

Fishing is very important to the Mauritanian economy. It accounts for **10% of GDP** and between **35% and 50% of Mauritanian exports**. It also provides **29% of the income for the national budget**. The bulk of the contribution to the Mauritanian budget comes from cephalopods (46%), crustaceans (30%) and small pelagic species (15%). Other fisheries contribute to a lesser extent. This is the case with hake (7%) and demersal species and tunas (2%).

Fishing also generates around 45 000 direct and indirect **jobs**. This represents 36% of the jobs in what are termed 'modern sectors'. It is estimated that 31% of these jobs are generated by small-scale fishing, and 12% by industrial fishing. Most of the jobs in the industrial sector are generated by foreign fleets. Jobs on land account for 54%, with 3% in other secondary activities.

The development of the fisheries sector is also hindered by the lack of finance and very high interest rates. This has led to a high level of debt in both the extractive activity and processing. At the same time, production facilities are frequently antiquated and some processing facilities are undersized. These factors prevent the industry complying with international standards for access to the markets.

Despite everything, the contribution of fishing to the national economy is decreasing, due to increasing costs and falling prices. The increased importance of other sectors is also very significant. This is due to rising prices for iron ore and other raw materials, and the initial exploitation of other natural resources such as natural gas, petroleum and copper.

Despite its importance to the Mauritanian economy, the fisheries sector is relatively undeveloped. In regional terms, the Mauritanian sector bears no comparison to the Moroccan sector. When compared with Senegal, the two sectors are equal in terms of industrial fishing vessels and the number of processing facilities. However, the size of the small-scale fleet and the number of jobs in Mauritania are well below those of Senegal. This is logical given that the number of jobs created per gross registered tonne in the small-scale fleet is much higher than the number generated by the industrial fleet.

One of the reasons for the limited development of the fisheries sector is the lack of a maritime tradition. Only the Imraguen in the north and in N'Diogo in the south, close to the border with Senegal, have a fishing tradition. Given that the N'Diogo fishermen are prohibited from landing their catches in Saint Louis in Senegal, they are moving northwards.

Another important reason for the lack of development of fishing lies in the remoteness of Nouadhibou, which used to be the only landing point for the industrial fleet. As a result, the Mauritanian fisheries sector only began to develop in the 1980s.

Catches made by the Mauritanian fleet are very limited compared to those made by fleets from other countries, which have access to the fishery resources of the Mauritanian EEZ under signed fisheries agreements. Small pelagic species account for 90% of the catch volume of the Mauritanian fleet, but only just over 40% of the catch value. Catches of demersal species account for just over 20% of the value and cephalopods around 30%, whereas crustaceans only account for 10% of the value.

There are two separate segments to the Mauritanian fishing fleet: the industrial fleet and the small-scale fleet. Although the bulk of the catch (around 90%) is made by the industrial segment, its impact on job creation and added value is limited.

The **industrial** fleet concentrates on demersal trawling, catching octopus, crustaceans and other demersal species. It consists of 140 vessels, of which 94 are freezer trawlers, 10 of which are involved in fishing for crustaceans. The Mauritanian fleet also includes 46 non-freezer trawlers. There is no Mauritanian industrial fleet involved in pelagic fishing.

There are two separate segments in inshore and small-scale fishing: the small-scale fleet and the inshore fleet. The vessels involved in **small-scale fishing** do not have a deck.

They are up to 14 metres in length and their tonnage ranges between one and five gross registered tonnes (GRT). They use manual gear or purse seines.

The vessels involved in **inshore fishing** may or may not have a deck and are up to 26 metres in length. They do not use trawls or floats and lack any freezing facilities.

As a general rule, the inshore and small-scale fleets operate in waters less than 20 metres deep and less than 6 miles from the coast. The inshore and small-scale fleets have expanded considerably. In 1986 there were only 500 vessels, whereas in 2007 there were 4 200. It is estimated that 3 200 vessels are currently operational. Out of these, 110 are sailboats that operate in the vicinity of the Banc d'Arguin.

In general, the shorter vessels have outboard engines. Half of the vessels in the inshore and small-scale fleets have wooden hulls. The other half have a hull made of materials such as polyester, aluminium or steel.

IMROP estimates that around 62% of the catch of the small-scale fleet is landed in Nouadhibou and 35% in Nouakchott. Another 2% is landed in Banc d'Arguin.

The **fish processing industry** is relatively undeveloped. There are around 80 processing facilities, mainly involved in storage and freezing. Out of these, 66 have been recognised as complying with European Union standards. However, the number of facilities currently in compliance and operational may be closer to something over 50. The installed freezing capacity is in the order of 700 tonnes/day. However, this is underused at around 30%. The most recently constructed processing facilities turn out products with a high degree of preparation, such as tinned pilchards, mackerel and tuna, and prepared food. The pelagic trawlers produce some fish meal and oil.

Mauritania only has two fishing **ports**, in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. In the 1980s, some preserving facilities were constructed in the southern area in order to stimulate the development of small-scale fishing. However, the efficiency of these facilities was limited by the lack of roads and means of transport to convey the fishery products from the landing point to centres of consumption, and also by the shortage of power and drinking water. These facilities were gradually abandoned in favour of the infrastructures in Nouadhibou and the fish market situated a few kilometres to the north of Nouakchott.

The **port of Nouadhibou** has the best infrastructure and deals with most of the fishing activity. One part is specifically dedicated to the small-scale fleet. In addition to other port services, it has a fish market, ice factories, processing facilities and cold stores. In reality, only the industrial fleet lands catches at the autonomous port of Nouadhibou. However, larger industrial vessels cannot dock at the quayside and must tranship their catches in the roadstead some three or four miles from the coast. The inshore and small-scale fleets land their catches at the **EPBR (Établissement du Port de la Baie du Repos)**. All the catches of the industrial fleet are sold in Nouadhibou, together with 20% of those of the inshore and small-scale fleets.

Nouadhibou is the main centre for the export of frozen and refrigerated fish, whereas a high percentage of the fresh fish exports occur through Nouakchott. Some 20% of the catches of the inshore and small-scale fleets are sold in Nouakchott. However, **Nouakchott** does not have a fishing port properly speaking. The fishing activity takes place in a landing area to the north of the port. This area has a fish market which sells the catches from twelve villages situated on the southern Mauritanian coastline (El Mamghar, Jreif, Mhaijrat, Tiouilit, Belewach, Lemcid, Nouakchott beach, PK27, PK65 and N'Diogo). Its inadequacy is

clearly apparent from the fact that it is the only infrastructure for landing catches along 600 km of the central and southern coastline. The fish market at Nouakchott meets local demand, but some of the catch is also taken into the interior of the country and on occasions exported.

There is also a plan for a development pole with a small-scale fishing port at Tanit, around 70 km north of Nouakchott. The bay here is relatively well-protected by a rocky bottom. This plan has funding of EUR 2 740 million from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and is supported by OPEC. The focus would be on pelagic fishing. In addition to small-scale vessels, the plan includes operations by inshore vessels and non-freezer trawlers. This plan has been on the table since 1997, since when it has had various sponsors but seen little progress.

Most of the catch is landed in the port of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, from where it is sold. The role of the port of Las Palmas has developed because the Mauritanian port infrastructures limit the landing opportunities.

Finally, 2% of the catch of the small-scale fleet is landed in Imraguen villages. This consists mainly of grey mullet, skate, shark and meagre. This catch is made in the Banc d'Arguin National Park or in its immediate vicinity by non-motorised wooden vessels, in accordance with Law No 2000/024 on the Banc d'Arguin.

The consumption of fishery products in Mauritania is very limited. It has not increased despite the fall in livestock production and the rural exodus to the coastal areas as a result of droughts. This is due to the lack of a tradition of consuming fish, limited purchasing power and failure by households to adapt to preserving and preparing fish.

Dried or smoked fish is sold in African markets from Senegal or Mali. Most of the catch made in Mauritanian waters is landed in foreign ports or exported.

The irregularity and inadequacy of air transport hinder exports, although fresh products are exported from Nouadhibou by air to the Iberian peninsula. Most of the exports are handled by the Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation des Produits de Pêche (SMCP), which has a monopoly over the frozen product. Most of the exports are of frozen octopus, which are sent to the Japanese market. This market is very important due to the volume that it imports and the higher prices offered than on the European market.

## 4.2. Fisheries management in Mauritania

Mauritania began to develop its fisheries policy in 1979. Since then, there have been five phases: 1979 to 1987, 1994 to 1998, 2001 to 2005, 2006 to 2008, and 2008 to date. All five phases have had three objectives in common: sustainable conservation of marine resources; integration of fishing into the economy to maximise jobs; and added value.

Before 1979, Mauritania applied a policy of granting licences to foreign vessels. These opportunities were used by the Japanese fleet for cephalopod fishing and by the Soviet Union fleet for small pelagic fishing. This policy did not make any progress with integrating fishing into the Mauritanian economy. Catches were only landed at Mauritanian ports and the land-based facilities were underused.

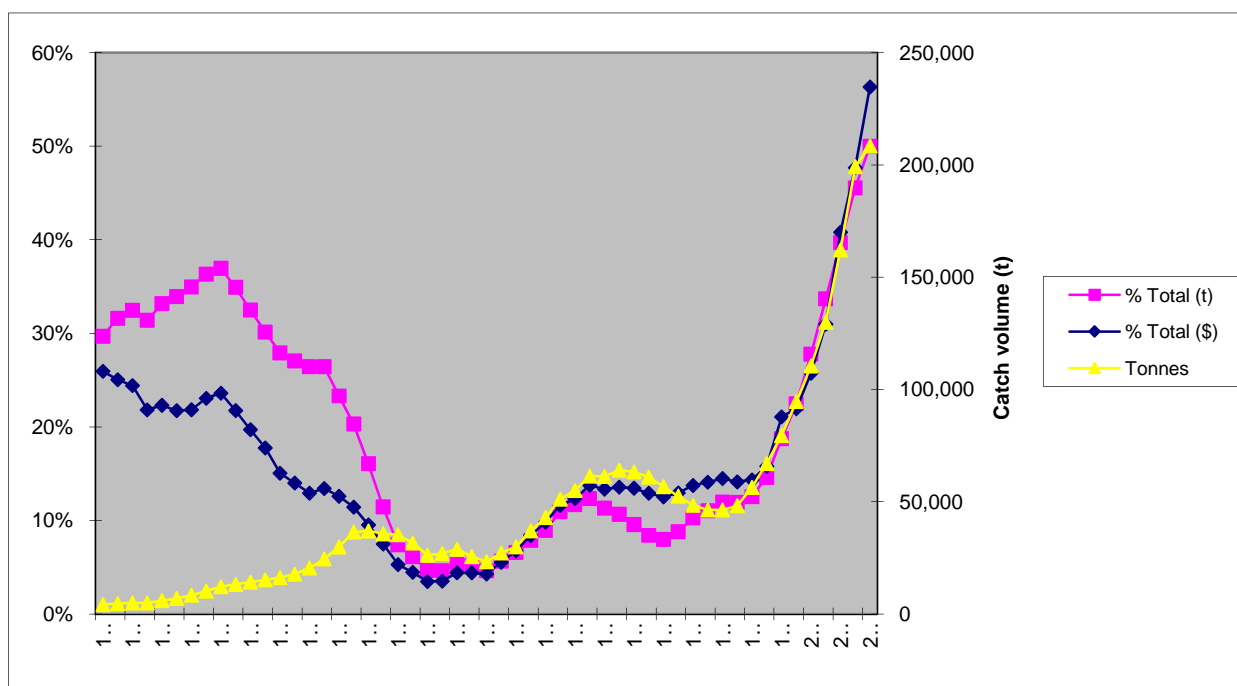
To remedy this situation, between **1979 and 1987** the '**New Fisheries Policy**' was applied. This policy tried to reinforce the management system, market as much of the catch as possible in Mauritania, encourage the development of a national small-scale fleet to supply the land-based facilities, and form joint enterprises with foreign partners.

Cephalopod vessels were authorised to land their catches in Las Palmas, but from 1982 all catches made in the Mauritanian EEZ had to be landed in Nouadhibou. As a result, the cephalopod fleet expanded. In 1984 the Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation des Produits de Pêche (SMCP) was set up. This is a public corporation, which was granted the monopoly over the export of frozen fish.

As a result, at the end of this period, 80% of the catches of cephalopods and inshore demersal species were made by the Mauritanian fleet. Fishing grew to represent 18% of GDP and 25% of national income, but this only helped to equalise the balance of payments. In addition, the fleet was obsolete, the processing facilities continued to be underused, the small-scale fleet, research and control system had not been developed, and the highest value products were being underexploited.

In the macroeconomic context of a structural adjustment programme, between **1987 and 1992** a **Fisheries Sector Development Policy** was applied. Broadly speaking the objectives had not changed, as they were focused on developing a control structure, reinforcing research programmes, searching for maximum added value for the national economy, developing small-scale fishing and suspending licences for foreign vessels.

Although the intended management plans never came to fruition, cephalopods were excluded from the 1987 Fisheries Agreement with the European Communities. The reduction in fishing effort helped to improve the state of resources, and the rise in prices and the increasing use of pots led to a considerable increase in national catches. However, the cephalopod fleet was very old. China then exported several hundred cephalopod trawlers, creating a new scenario of fishing overcapacity.

**Graph 9: Mauritanian catch. Volume and percentage of the total. 5-year moving averages**

Source: Sea Around Us ([www.seaaroundus.org](http://www.seaaroundus.org)), developed by the author.

Between 1992 and 1996 the decisive factor was the 1995 charter on the **Fisheries Sector Development Policy**. As a result of this charter, import duties were replaced by an access fee. The export of some products developed and, despite the overcapacity in cephalopod fishing, licences were once again granted to foreign vessels.

Since 1996 there have been no major innovations in fisheries policy. However, there have been innovations in the integration of fisheries policy with other elements, such as the Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty and the integrated management of the coastline. The development of technical measures should also be noted. In addition, the increased distance from the coast of the authorised zones for industrial fishing, with the waters less than 20 metres deep being reserved for small-scale fishing, has allowed the profitability of the small-scale fleet to recover since 2002.

The integration of fishing in the Mauritanian economy has not reached the expected levels due to the dependence on income from fisheries agreements and free licences, shortcomings in the landing, processing, support service and maintenance infrastructures, and also the lack of diversification, as the catches are restricted to a limited number of species.

Management is based on the assessment of fishery resources and impact studies, which serve as a basis for the management plans. The monitoring and control system has now become decisive in fishing and in the perception that the fleets operating in Mauritanian waters have of the Mauritanian fisheries policy.

Traditionally, the management system in Mauritania has been based on controlling fishing effort through a system of licences and by applying technical measures. This system has not kept the overexploitation of resources under control. The aim is therefore to develop the system from a licence-based system into a system of transferable quotas based on scientific assessments.

The **technical measures** have gradually developed. These include the introduction of **biological recovery periods**, resulting in a reduction in fishing effort. In 1991 a two-month biological recovery period was introduced for August and September, to which May was added from 2004. In addition, since 1998 **the fishing effort for demersal species has been frozen** and a **minimum mesh of 70 millimetres for demersal trawling** has been set. Furthermore, a ban on trawling, particularly at depths of less than 20 metres, has been introduced to protect breeding areas. Finally, **minimum catch sizes** have been set.

Fishing effort is controlled and fishing opportunities granted by means of a licence system. This takes into account, among other factors, the number of vessels and their tonnage, number of fishing days, fishing zones, target species and gear used. The licences are generally annual, but in some cases can be valid for three months. An access fee must be paid to obtain a licence. This fee is generally set according to the GRT and the system and type of fishing.

For pelagic fishing, a total allowable catch (TAC) system is already being used. The TACs are set every five years by assessment groups set up by the Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques (IMROP). These groups involve scientists and specialist international institutions. IMROP is based in Nouadhibou and has a laboratory in Nouakchott and offices in Rosso and Kaédi.

Management plans for cephalopods and for small-scale and inshore fishing have been adopted. These initially involve managing capacity through fishing effort, but the aim is to gradually move towards a quota system.£





## 5. EU-MAURITANIA FISHERIES AGREEMENTS

### KEY FINDINGS

- The EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement is **the most costly signed to date by the EU**. In the 2008-2012 period, the financial contribution is EUR 305 million, in addition to EUR 60 million from the fees paid by shipowners to obtain licences.
- This Agreement has developed from the 1987 **Fisheries Agreement**, through the 1996 **Cooperation Agreement**, to the 2006 **Fisheries Partnership Agreement**. In the process, aspects associated with the conservation of resources, contribution to development, implementation of a fisheries policy, scientific and technical assistance and business cooperation have been reinforced.
- The EU-Mauritania Agreement is hugely important, particularly for trawlers fishing for cephalopods and crustaceans, as they have no alternative fishing grounds except for Guinea-Bissau.
- Under the successive agreements, **fishing opportunities** have been reduced, but the financial contributions and fees to be paid by shipowners have increased.
- In some fishing categories, only a small amount of the **opportunities** are being used, due to problems associated with technical measures, high fees and the boarding problem.
- The authorised **fishing zones** have gradually been moved further away from the coast to encourage the development of the small-scale fleet, with an exclusive zone being reserved for the latter and interactions with the industrial fleet being limited, and to reduce the fishing effort on octopus.
- Although the **technical measures** have gradually been clarified in the successive agreements, they are still a source of problems, resulting in discriminatory treatment for the European Union fleets.
- The agreements provide for and regulate **transhipments of catches and landings** in Community ports.
- They also provide for the signing-on of **Mauritanian seamen and observers** on board Community vessels.
- To ensure the correct application of the Agreement, a **Joint Committee** and a **Joint Scientific Committee** have been formed.
- There is a problem with the **boarding of Community vessels**, which is worsening as time passes. There is evidence that some of these boardings may be unjustified. Despite a Working Group having been set up on this issue, the competent Mauritanian authorities are not proving cooperative.

### 5.1. Development of EU-Mauritania Agreements

As with other agreements, the one concluded between the European Union and Mauritania has developed, from a 1987 Fisheries Agreement to a 1996 Cooperation Agreement and, since 2006, a Fisheries Partnership Agreement. In addition to the EU-Mauritania Agreements, various Member States have bilateral fishing cooperation programmes.

### **5.1.1. 1987 Fisheries Agreement**

In October 1987 the European Community concluded a Fisheries Agreement with Mauritania. This Agreement was a continuation of the agreement concluded on 6 January 1984 between Portugal and Mauritania, which predated Portugal's accession to the EC in 1986 and which also applied to Spanish vessels permanently registered in Canary Island ports. The Agreement initially applied for a three-year period (from 1 August to 31 July) and could be renewed unless terminated. The terms of the Agreement were defined every three years through protocols.

Mauritania offered fishing opportunities in return for a financial contribution. At the end of the 1993-1996 period, a Supplement was agreed to open up fishing opportunities. Fishing zones with entry and exit conditions, authorised mesh sizes and allowable by-catch levels were established. In addition, percentages for Mauritanian crew and conditions for the seizure and detention of flag vessels of a Member State of the Community were laid down.

According to a study carried out by IFREMER in 1999 on the 1993-1997 period, the Fisheries Agreement with Mauritania accounted for 13% of the budget allocated by the EC to fisheries agreements. The income from the Agreement accounted for 15% of the Mauritanian national budget. This study estimated that a direct added value of EUR 42.76 million per year and another EUR 89.58 million of indirect added value was being generated in the Member States. It also estimated that 1 969 direct jobs and another 2 478 indirect jobs had been created. The Agreement with Mauritania apparently accounted for 18% of the added value and 13% of the jobs generated by the southern agreements.

In 1993 there were 114 vessels operating under the Agreement with Mauritania, and 156 in 1996. Some 30% of these vessels were involved in fishing for large pelagic species, with the tuna seiners being particularly predominant. Around 80% of the vessels were Spanish flagged. Over half of the tuna seiners were French flagged.

### **5.1.2. 1996 Cooperation Agreement**

In 1990 it was agreed to develop fishing cooperation and encourage partnerships between Community and Mauritanian businesses for the exploitation of resources and the processing and marketing of fishery products. The terms of this cooperation were to be examined by the Joint Committee.

On 20 June 1996 the European Community and Mauritania signed a Cooperation Agreement on sea fisheries for a period of five years. This differed from the previous agreement in that it formed part of the Euro-Mediterranean project, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperation resulting from the Lomé Convention.

Unlike the 1987 Fisheries Agreement, the emphasis was placed on cooperation, which was to be embodied in:

- conservation and rational exploitation of fishery stocks in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- scientific and technical cooperation between institutions specialising in the fisheries sector;
- exchange and dissemination of information on fishing techniques and gear, on the conservation and industrial processing of fishery products and on methods for the protection of the marine environment;
- administrative cooperation to ensure that vessels respected the provisions of the Agreement and Mauritanian law;

- preventing and combating of illegal fishing, in particular through the exchange of information and close administrative cooperation.

The aim of the Agreement was to encourage the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in Mauritania by:

- the modernisation of the inshore fishing fleet and of fisheries-related industries;
- the development of small-scale fishing;
- the development of port infrastructure and the improvement of conditions for the reception of fishing fleets in Mauritanian ports;
- undertaking aquaculture projects;
- protection of the marine environment;
- commissioning specific studies;
- developing research into new fishing methods conducive to the rational exploitation of fish stocks;
- the improvement and development of distribution networks for fishery products;
- improving assistance and rescue services at sea;
- monitoring the exploitation of fishery resources;
- stepping up surveillance at sea;
- improving administrative procedures for managing this Agreement;
- encouraging the establishment and development of associations of undertakings and joint ventures in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and related industries.

The 2001 Protocol was negotiated in the period between the publication of the Fisheries Code (Law No 2000-25) and its implementing regulation (Decree No 2002-73). This negotiation was based on the available draft decrees. This meant that certain measures applicable to Community fleets were not applied to other fleets operating in Mauritanian waters nor, of course, to the national fleet.

Following the expiry of the Agreement with Morocco in 1999 and the signing of the 2001 Protocol, the Cooperation Agreement with Mauritania became the most important in financial terms. With funding of EUR 86 million per year, its impact on the budget amounted to EUR 430 million over the five years of the Agreement. Its period of validity was extended from 1 August 2001 to 31 July 2006.

### **5.1.3. 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement**

At the end of 2006, the European Community and Mauritania concluded a Fisheries Partnership Agreement in the context of the Cotonou Agreement. This Agreement applies for six years and may be renewed for six-year periods, unless terminated. The protocols regulating the implementation of the Agreement apply for two years.

The aim of this Agreement is to develop closer economic cooperation in the fishing industry and related activities, by setting up and developing investments involving companies from both Parties.

It establishes principles, rules and procedures governing:

- economic, financial, technical and scientific cooperation in the fisheries sector with a view to:
  - establishing responsible fishing in Mauritanian fishing zones;
  - guaranteeing the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources; and
  - developing the Mauritanian fisheries sector;

- the conditions governing access by Community fishing vessels to Mauritanian fishing zones;
- the arrangements for policing fisheries in Mauritanian fishing zones with a view to ensuring that the above rules and conditions are complied with, that the measures for the conservation and management of fish stocks are effective and that illegal, undeclared and unregulated fishing is prevented;
- partnerships between companies aimed at developing economic activities in the fisheries sector and related activities, in the common interest;
- the conditions for landing and transshipment of catches made in Mauritanian fishing zones;
- the terms for taking seamen on board Community vessels operating under this Agreement in Mauritanian fishing zones.

The Agreement is linked to other international conventions such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which applies to the employment of Mauritanian seamen on board Community vessels.

An independent Joint Scientific Committee has also been set up, which meets at least once a year. The work of the Joint Scientific Committee may be used by the Joint Committee to adopt measures to ensure the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

One of the objectives of the Agreement is to encourage economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the fisheries sector. This cooperation also encompasses exchanges of information on fishing techniques and gear, conservation methods and the processing of fisheries products. However, above all, the Agreement endeavours to create conditions favourable to the promotion of relations between the Parties' enterprises in the technical, economic and commercial spheres, by encouraging the establishment of an environment favourable to the development of business and investment

Another pillar of the Agreement is administrative cooperation. The aim is to ensure that vessels comply with the provisions of the Agreement and with Mauritanian sea fisheries legislation. The intention is also to cooperate to prevent and combat illegal fishing, in particular through the exchange of information and close administrative cooperation.

Council Regulation (EC) No 704/2008 was adopted on 15 July 2008. This sets out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement for the period between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2012. As a result, the period of validity of the Protocol has been extended from two to four years (1 August 2008 to 31 July 2012).

Fishing opportunities have been drastically cut (25% for cephalopod fishing, between 10% and 50% for demersal fishing and 43% for pelagic trawling). In the case of cephalopods, this cut is in addition to that applied in the 2006 Agreement.

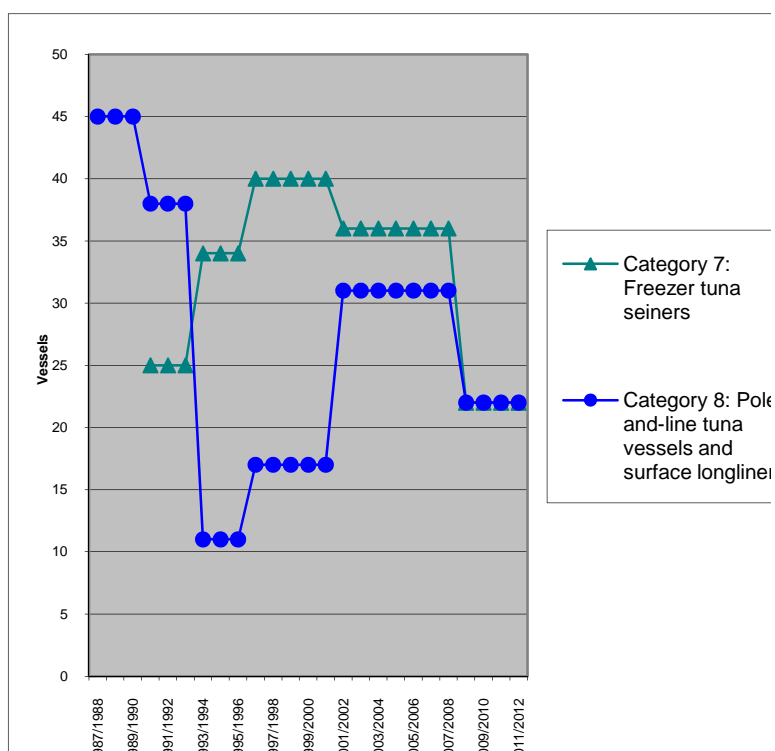
At the same time as reducing fishing opportunities, the financial contribution has also been cut from the second year, although to a lesser extent. However, under certain conditions, a contribution from the European Development Fund (EDF) is possible. The fees to be paid by shipowners for licences and per tonne caught have been considerably increased.

## 5.2. Content of EU-Mauritania Agreements

### 5.2.1. Fishing Opportunities

The EU-Mauritania Agreement is hugely important, particularly for trawlers fishing for cephalopods and crustaceans, as they have no alternative fishing grounds except for Guinea-Bissau. One of the specific features of the Agreement with Mauritania is that the principle of relative stability may not always be respected in the allocation of fishing opportunities. This fact was highlighted in both the 2006 Agreement and the 2008 Protocol.

**Graph 10: Fishing opportunities for tuna vessels**

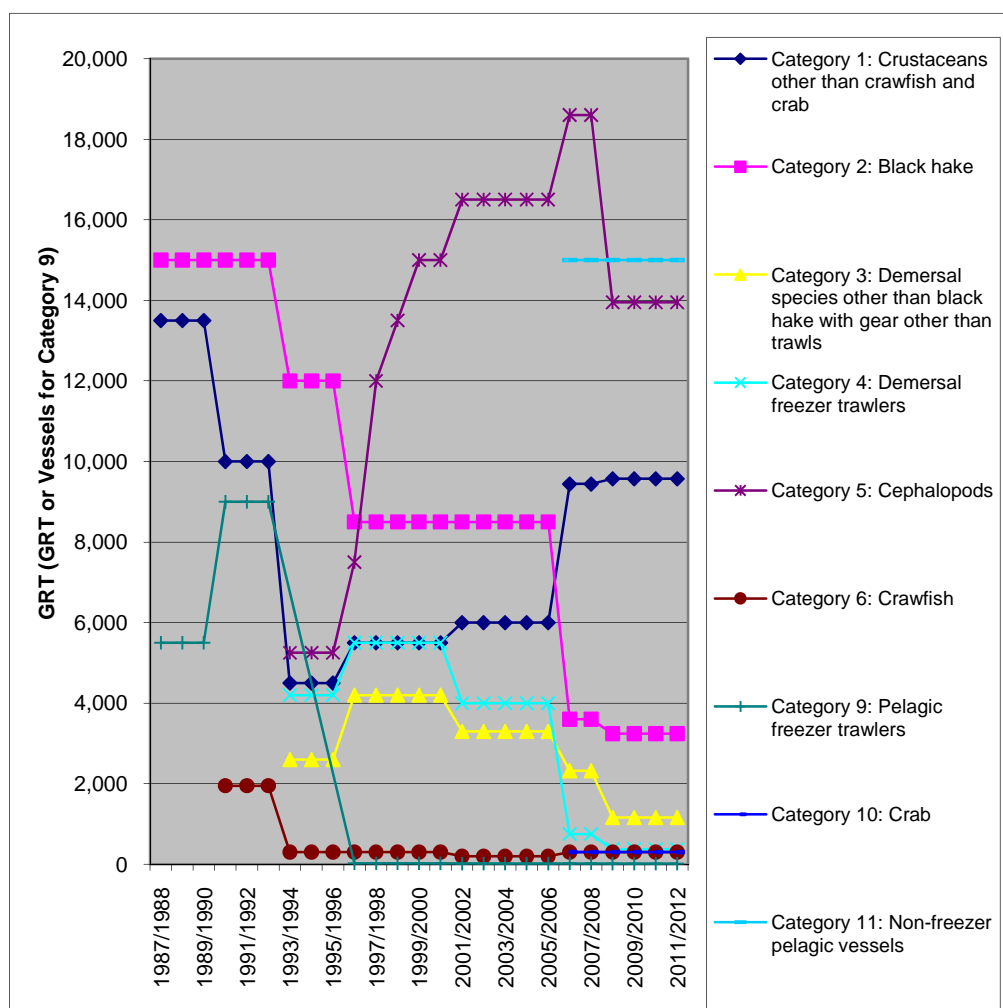


Source: Developed by the author. Compiled from the Community Rules

In 1987 four main categories of fishing opportunities were established:

- large pelagic species;
- crustaceans;
- demersal species;
- small pelagic species.

The fishing opportunities for **large pelagic species** have developed considerably, in terms of both methods and numbers. In 1987 separate fishing opportunities were granted for pole-and-line tuna vessels and for longline fishing for swordfish. Pole-and-line tuna vessels were authorised to fish using live bait. In 1990 these fishing opportunities were combined and reduced, but fishing opportunities for tuna seine fishing were added. In 1993 pole-and-line fishing opportunities were reduced even further, but seine fishing opportunities were increased. However, in 2001 this process was reversed, with fishing opportunities for pole-and-line tuna vessels increasing considerably and those for seine netters reducing slightly. In 2008 fishing opportunities for all large pelagic species were reduced.

**Graph 11: Fishing opportunities for vessels other than tuna vessels**

Source: Developed by the author. Compiled from the Community Rules

In 1987 fishing opportunities for **crustaceans** were granted, with separate contingents for shrimp and Norway lobster. In 1990 fishing opportunities for shrimp and Norway lobster were reduced by 34% and became known as crustaceans other than crawfish. However, fishing opportunities for crawfish using pots were added. In 1993 fishing opportunities for both categories were substantially reduced. Since 1996 fishing opportunities for crustaceans other than crawfish have been increasing, particularly since 2008. In 2006 crab was excluded from Category 1 and placed in its own category (10). Fishing opportunities for crawfish were reduced in 1993.

Black hake is the species for which the most fishing opportunities have been granted since the beginning of the EU-Mauritania Agreements. However, these fishing opportunities have been gradually reduced. They currently stand at 22% of what they were in 1987.

Since 1987 it has been possible for fishing opportunities for **demersal** species to be granted. In 1990 fishing for black hake using trawls or bottom set longlines was added to the fishing opportunities for demersal species. In 1993 these opportunities were reduced, but fishing opportunities for demersal species other than black hake were granted. For these species, separate opportunities were granted for trawls and for gear other than trawls. Under the 1996 Cooperation Agreement, in the category of demersal species other than black hake using trawls, 1 500 GRT were reserved for three freezer trawlers that could no longer continue fishing for black hake, which had been reserved for non-freezer

trawlers. In 1996 the opportunities for demersal species were increased, and then reduced from 2001. From 2006 this reduction became more pronounced, particularly for demersal freezer trawlers.

In 1993 fishing opportunities for **cephalopods** were granted. In 1996 a Supplement to the Protocol was agreed, which extended these fishing opportunities in return for an increased financial contribution. The role of cephalopod fishing in the Agreement with Mauritania has become more important since the disappearance of these fishing opportunities in the Agreement with Morocco. These fishing opportunities increased considerably up to 2001, but were reduced in the 2008 Protocol.

In 1987 fishing opportunities for **small pelagic species** were granted. Initially these opportunities were limited to seining for coastal species and a specific contingent was established for small-scale seine netters. In 1990 the restriction to coastal species and the differentiation for small-scale seine netters were abolished. The opportunity to use trawls was also granted and the total fishing opportunities were increased. However, in 1993 fishing opportunities for pelagic species were removed.

Under the 1996 Cooperation Agreement, fishing opportunities for pelagic trawling and for large pelagic species were expressed by number of vessels. In the case of pelagic freezer trawlers, three categories were established:

- **Category 1:** Gross tonnage less than or equal to 3 000 GRT. Annual limit of 12 500 GT per vessel.
- **Category 2:** Gross tonnage in excess of 3 000 GRT and less than or equal to 5 000 GRT. Annual limit of 17 500 GT per vessel.
- **Category 3:** Gross tonnage in excess of 5 000 GRT and less than or equal to 8 000 GRT. Annual limit of 22 500 GT per vessel.

From 1996 fishing opportunities for **pelagic** freezer trawlers were granted by number of vessels instead of by tonnage. However, a reference maximum tonnage was maintained, which was significantly reduced in 2008. In 2006 opportunities for fresh pelagic fishing were granted.

On 14 December 2007 the Commission proposed to the Council that the Protocol be terminated<sup>3</sup> as it felt that the fishing opportunities were not being fully utilised, particularly those in Category 9 for small pelagic fishing.

Between 2006 and 2008 technical problems considerably limited the use of the cephalopod fishing opportunities (Category 5). These problems, which were associated with the technical measures, were in addition to very high fees and the boarding problem. These factors limited profitability and prevented the fishing opportunities from being used. In fact, the fleet that was still operating in Mauritanian waters (20 Spanish vessels and 4 Italian vessels) decided to tie up on 31 December 2007.

However, other fishing categories were being used even less. For example, the fishing opportunities for non-freezer pelagic vessels (Category 11) were only used by Ireland in 2008. Fishing for crawfish (Category 6) was also sporadic and limited, with the fishing opportunities only being used by the Portuguese fleet. The same situation applied to Category 4 (demersal freezer trawlers), in which the fishing opportunities were only being sporadically used by the Greek fleet. In most years the fishing opportunities for freezer tuna seiners (Category 7) were also not being used.

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<sup>3</sup>COM(2007)782.



**Table 2: Fishing opportunities under the 2008 Fisheries Protocol**

<b>GRT</b>	<b>Fishing Opportunities</b>
Category 1: Crustaceans other than crawfish and crab	9 570
Category 2: Black hake	3 240
Category 3: Demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls	1 162
Category 4: Demersal freezer trawlers	375
Category 5: Cephalopods	13 950
Category 6: Crawfish	300
Category 7: Freezer tuna seiners (number of vessels)	22
Category 8: Pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners (number of vessels)	22
Category 9: Pelagic freezer trawlers (number of vessels)	17
Category 10: Crab	300
Category 11: Non-freezer pelagic vessels	15 000

In February 2008 the EU Fisheries Ministers rejected the option of terminating the Protocol and decided instead to renegotiate it. The European Parliament had also indicated that it was against termination, as it felt that this would pose a risk to the continuation of the Agreement and that the underuse of some fishing opportunities was partly the result of inadequate negotiation of the applicable Protocol.

In the Council, there was resistance to adopting the Regulation laying down the method for allocating the fishing opportunities between Member States following the 2008 Protocol. In fact, the representatives of the Netherlands, Lithuania and Spain expressed their reservations in a Council meeting in July 2008. Whilst the Netherlands and Lithuania refused to accept the loss of fishing opportunities for pelagic trawlers, for Spain the problem lay with cephalopods. The lack of respect for the relative stability principle was cited.

Between 2008 and July 2010, the categories in which the fishing opportunities were used to a reasonable degree were Category 5 (cephalopods), Category 1 (crustaceans other than crawfish and crab), Category 8 (pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners) and Category 9 (pelagic freezer trawlers). In other fishing categories, the fishing opportunities were used to a lesser degree. This was the case with black hake (Category 2) and demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls (Category 3).



**Table 3: Allocation and use of fishing opportunities under the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement and 2008 Fisheries Protocol**

Fishing category	No		MS allocation 2006-2008			Use 2006-2008			No		MS allocation 2008-2010			Use 2008-2010		
	GRT	Ves.	MS	GRT	Ves.	GRT	Ves.	%	GRT	Ves.	MS	GRT	Ves.	GRT	Ves.	%
1: Crustaceans other than crawfish and crab	9 440		ESP	7 313		7 162	27	98%	9 570		ESP	7 313		5 802	22	82%
			ITA	1 371		1 220	3	89%			ITA	1 371		1 143	3	63%
			PRT	886		740	3	84%			PRT	886		225	1	14%
			GRC			77	0	0%			GRC			0	0	0%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>9 570</b>		<b>9 200</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>96.1%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>9 570</b>		<b>7 170</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>74.9%</b>
2: Black hake	3 600		ESP	3 600		2 472	10	69%	3 240		ESP	3 600		1 666	7	54%
			GRC			0	0	0%			GRC					
			PRT			251	1	0%			PRT					
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3 600</b>		<b>2 723</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>75.6%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>3 240</b>		<b>1 666</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>51.4%</b>
3: Demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls	2 324		ESP	1 500		609	5	41%	1 162		ESP	1 500		542	4	50%
			GBR	800		0	0	0%			GBR					
			MLT	24		17	1	71%			MLT					
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2 324</b>		<b>627</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27.0%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>1 162</b>		<b>542</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>46.7%</b>
4: Demersal freezer trawlers	750		GRC	750		0	0	0%	375		GRC	750		0	0	0%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
5: Cephalopods	18 600	43	ESP		39	8 818	22	57%	13 950	32	ESP		24	9 842	25	100%
			ITA		4	2 425	4	107%			ITA		4	2 502	4	125%
			PRT			272	1	0%			PRT		1	260	1	100%
			GRC			571	2	0%			GRC		3	464	2	50%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>18 600</b>		<b>12 085</b>		<b>65.0%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>13 950</b>		<b>13 068</b>		<b>93.7%</b>
					43		30	69.8%					32		32	100.0%
6: Crawfish	300		PRT	300		219	1	73%	300		PRT	300		0	0	0%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>		<b>219</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73.0%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
7: Freezer tuna seiners	Annual Lic.	36	ESP		15	9 401	8	53%	Annual Lic.	22	ESP		17	11 916	8	59%
			FRA		20	0	0	0%			FRA		5	0	0	0%
			MLT		1	0	0	0%			MLT					
			<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>9 401</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.2%</b>			<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>11 916</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34.5%</b>
8: Pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners	Annual Lic.	31	ESP		23	2 200	11	43%	Annual Lic.	22	ESP		18	2 230	11	68%
			FRA		5	642	2	25%			FRA		4	775	2	17%
			PRT		3	175	1	10%			PRT					
			<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>3 017</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>44.7%</b>			<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>3 005</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>62.7%</b>
9: Demersal freezer trawlers. The % are calculated according to use and not allocation between MS	Monthly Lic.	22	DEU			3 918	1		Monthly Lic.	17	DEU			0	0	
			LTU			14 142	3.4				LTU			33 866	7.8	
			LVA			10 600	3.5				LVA			36 864	10.8	
			NLD			12 172	1.8				NLD			28 917	4.3	
			GBR			1 969	0.4				GBR			6 974	1.3	
			IRL								IRL			4 901	0.8	
			FRA								FRA			5 873	2.3	
			POL								POL			20 760	2.5	
			<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>42 800</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38.0%</b>			<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>138 153</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>62.0%</b>
10: Crab	300		ESP	300		229	1	76%	300		ESP	300		138	1	31%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>		<b>229</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76.4%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>		<b>138</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46.0%</b>
11: Non-freezer pelagic vessels	15 000					0	0	0%	15 000		IRL			273	0	0%
			<b>Total</b>	<b>15 000</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>15 000</b>		<b>273</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

### 5.2.2. Fishing Zones

The definition of the fishing zones has been considerably clarified since 1990. Two main fishing zones were initially established, to the north and south of parallel 19° 21' N. In the north, the fishing zones for one of the fisheries were defined from the baseline between Cap Blanc and Cap Timiris and, in the south, from the low tide line. In the north, the fishing zones were therefore further away from the Mauritanian coastline. The northern part is the most productive, but it also has the most biological diversity and encompasses Marine Protected Areas such as the Banc d'Arguin and Cap Blanc MPAs.

Under successive agreements and protocols, the fishing zones were then clarified even further and, in some cases, moved further away from the coastline. In 2001 the fishing zones were further defined and once again moved further away from the coast. This was also the case in 2002 with regard to the Mauritanian fleet. The aim was to prohibit trawling in waters less than 20 metres deep, which are the areas of high biological productivity. The aim was also to encourage the development of small-scale and inshore fishing, by reserving an exclusive zone for these fleets and reducing the interactions between the small-scale and industrial fleets. Another goal was to reduce fishing effort on octopus, by moving the industrial fleet further away.

In addition, in 1996 two points were set for entering and leaving the fishing zones. These were 20° 40' N - 17° 40' W in the northern zone and 16° 20' N - 16° 40' W in the southern zone. All vessels except for tuna vessels and pelagic trawlers were to enter and leave the zone through these points, in the presence of the surveillance authority. It was anticipated that control operations should not take more than an hour for entries or more than three hours for exits.

In 1987 it was established that vessels with a capacity in excess of 150 GRT should inform the Nouadhibou radio station of the date and time of each entry and exit from the Mauritanian fishing zone. In 1990 it was established that this communication on entry and exit from the fishing zones should be made to the Direction de la Commande des Pêches (DCP) in Nouadhibou and that pole-and-line tuna vessels should make this communication 24 hours in advance.

Currently, fishing vessels operating under the Agreement are monitored by satellite. The Protocol establishes that, when a vessel enters the Mauritanian EEZ, the subsequent position reports (vessel identification, longitude, latitude, course and speed) should be transmitted immediately by the Control Centre of the flag State to the surveillance authority (FMC) at intervals of no more than one hour. These messages should be transmitted electronically in https format, or any other secure protocol (e.g. X.25).

This issue is a source of conflict in a large number of boardings of Community vessels. Despite the clarity of the Protocol's terms, the Mauritanian authorities use alternative methods to satellite monitoring or raise issues associated with the format of the position reports.

Transhipments should be carried out within the roadstead of the Mauritanian ports and should be notified to the surveillance authority. All transhipments are regarded as exits from the fishing zone.

### 5.2.3. Technical Measures

The technical measures under the Agreement with Mauritania have traditionally proved to be inadequately defined, which has considerably hindered fishing activity. In the 1996 Cooperation Agreement, the technical measures were defined much more precisely than in the 1987 Fisheries Agreement. In addition to minimum meshes and maximum by-catches, the authorised gear was listed and prohibitions laid down. In general these prohibitions applied to the cod-end, with doubling of the cod-end and doubling of the twine forming the cod-end being prohibited. Biological recovery periods were also set, which could be amended by mutual agreement between the parties. The presence of crawfish on board vessels other than crawfish boats with pots was prohibited.

Following the 2001 Protocol, the recovery period for **crustaceans other than crawfish** was moved from the months of March and April to September and October, bringing them into line with the other species. This had been a repeated demand of Mauritania at meetings of the Joint Committee since the Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1996.

The minimum mesh for fishing for **black hake** with trawls was increased from 60 to 70 millimetres. The by-catches, which had been set at 35%, were changed to 25% for trawlers and 50% for bottom longliners.

For **demersal species other than black hake**, in addition to longlines, fixed gillnets and handlines, the use of creels and seines for fishing for live bait were also authorised. Creels were authorised for a maximum of seven vessels with an individual tonnage of less than 80 GRT. For the fixed gillnets, a minimum mesh of 120 millimetres was maintained, but a maximum depth of 7 metres and a maximum length of 100 metres were set. In the case of trawling, by-catches of octopus could not be kept on board. The limits for other species were maintained.

Further amendments were made in the **2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement**. For by-catches, the quantities stipulated in the 2001 Protocol were replaced with a less precise definition, namely: 'In accordance with Mauritanian legislation. Where Mauritanian legislation does not contain any rules on by-catches of certain species, the two Parties shall consult within the Joint Committee to lay down the authorised rate.'

The biological recovery period for **Category 2 (black hake trawlers and bottom longliners)** was to be agreed subsequently by the two Parties, within the Joint Committee, on the basis of the best available scientific advice approved by the Joint Scientific Committee. No reference was made to biological recovery for Category 3.

In the case of **Category 3 (demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls)**, the minimum mesh set for the fixed gillnet was 16 millimetres in the net used for fishing with live bait, which increased to 20 millimetres from 1 August 2007. Gillnets made of polyamide monofilaments were prohibited. For **crawfish** fishing (**Category 6**), a minimum mesh of 50 millimetres was set, which increased to 60 millimetres from 1 August 2007. For **freezer tuna seiners (Category 7)**, the name of the authorised gear was changed from seine to seine net. In accordance with the relevant ICCAT and FAO recommendations, fishing for the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*) and tope shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) was prohibited for **pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners (Category 8)**. The minimum mesh for fishing with live bait was increased from 8 to 16 millimetres.

In **Category 10 (crab fishing)**, the use of crab pots with a mesh of 50 millimetres was authorised, which increased to 60 millimetres from 1 August 2007. A biological recovery period of two months from September to October was established. For **non-freezer pelagic vessels (Category 11)**, the pelagic trawl and purse seine were authorised for industrial fishing, with minimum meshes of 40 millimetres for trawlers and 20 millimetres for seiners.

In 2008 further amendments were made to the technical measures. For example, those categories with a biological recovery period (**Categories 1, 4, 5, 6 and 10**) had the months of May and June added to the existing months of September and October.

At the proposal of Mauritania, the extension of the biological recovery period was included in the negotiation of the 2008 Fisheries Protocol at the last moment and was discussed outside the Joint Scientific Committee. Although the stoppage should have applied to all fishing categories, Mauritania justified this proposal through a report focusing solely on cephalopods, dated 5 March 2008. The new biological recovery period broke the rule on the same conditions applying to both Community and Mauritanian vessels, as the Mauritanian small-scale fleet had a 15-day exemption. Despite everything, the Commission accepted the new biological recovery period without consulting the Member States.

At the Joint Committee meeting from 22 to 25 March 2010, it was decided that the biological recovery periods could be amended in line with scientific advice approved by the Joint Committee and that any change must be notified to the European party at least one month in advance. In fact, from the autumn of 2010, the biological recovery period for cephalopod, shellfish and king crab vessels has been delayed by one month and is now from October to November. As a result, vessels that were fishing did not have to leave the fishing ground in September.

In addition, two appendices were added for **by-catches** (Appendix 5 to Annex I) and **minimum meshes** (Appendix 6 to Annex I).

In the negotiation of the 2008 Fisheries Protocol, the prohibition in Mauritanian legislation on the device known as 'drag chains' (*chaînes racleuses*) for fishing for **crustaceans other than crawfish and crab (Category 1)** was discussed. The use of this device is internationally accepted, with a few exceptions, such as Madagascar. The Community fleet obtained authorisation to use this device, pending a final decision by the Joint Scientific Committee following a scientific assessment. In November 2008 the Joint Scientific Committee concluded that drag chains could only be formally authorised if management measures were introduced to limit the overall impact of trawling. It also recommended more in-depth research into limiting the overall impact of shellfish trawling and identifying vulnerable areas.

However, in 2008 the Community fleet was authorised to use protective aprons for fishing for crustaceans other than crawfish and crab. The use of these had previously been prohibited for the Community fleet, but was authorised by Article 24 of the Mauritanian Fisheries Code.

**Table 4: Technical measures under the 2008 Fisheries Protocol**

FISHING CATEGORY	Authorised gear	Prohibitions	Minimum mesh	Biological recovery
Category 1: Crustaceans other than crawfish and crab	Bottom shrimp trawl and other selective types of gear	Doubling of the cod-end. Doubling of the twine forming the cod-end	50 mm	May to June and September to October
Category 2: Black hake	Bottom longline and bottom trawl for hake	Doubling of the cod-end. Doubling of the twine forming the cod-end	70 mm for the trawl net	
Category 3: Demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls	Longline, fixed gillnets, handline, creels and seines for fishing for live bait	Gillnets made of polyamide monofilaments	120 mm for the gillnet. 20 mm for live bait fishing	
Category 4: Demersal freezer trawlers	Trawl net	Doubling of the cod-end. Doubling of the twine forming the cod-end	70 mm	May to June and September to October
Category 5: Cephalopods	Demersal trawling	Doubling of the cod-end. Doubling of the twine forming the cod-end	70 mm	May to June and September to October
Category 6: Crawfish	Pot		60 mm	May to June and September to October
Category 7: Freezer tuna seiners	Seine net		Recommended ICCAT standard	
Category 8: Pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners	Pole-and-line and surface longlines			
Pole-and-line tuna vessels: Live-bait fishing			16 mm	
Category 9: Pelagic freezer trawlers	Pelagic trawl	Doubling of the cod-end. Doubling of the twine forming the cod-end	40 mm	
Category 10: Crab	Crab pot		50 mm; from 1 August 2007, 60 mm	
Category 11: Non-freezer pelagic vessels	Pelagic trawl and purse seine for industrial fishing		40 mm for trawlers and 20 mm for seiners	

In fishing for **cephalopods (Category 5)**, the main problem lay in the minimum size of octopus. Mauritania had set a minimum weight of 500 grams, whereas in Senegal the minimum size was 350 grams and in Morocco 400 grams. The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) launched a study into whether a common minimum size of octopus should be set for the whole region. At the moment, a minimum size of 400 grams is applied, which is the size laid down in Mauritanian legislation.

#### 5.2.4. Financial Contributions

In return for the fishing opportunities, financial contributions were set, which in 1987 took the following forms:

- Financial compensation, with the use to which this was put being the sole responsibility of Mauritania, payable in three annual instalments (if new

opportunities to fish for demersal species were granted, this compensation would be increased proportionally).

- A contribution towards the financing of scientific and technical programmes to improve information on the fishery resources.
- A contribution towards awards for students in the various fisheries-related scientific, technical and economic disciplines. Part of this contribution could be used to fund the organisation of seminars on fishing in Mauritania or for participation in international meetings aimed at improving fisheries knowledge.

Throughout the period of validity of the 1987 Fisheries Agreement, changes were made to the terms of the financial contribution. For example, with regard to the contribution towards scientific and technical programmes, in 1990 it was established that these programmes would be developed by the CNROP (Centre National de Recherche Océanographique et des Pêches) and presented to the Community, which would participate in them. It was also established that the Mauritanian authorities should periodically report on the approved scientific and technical programmes and their results. The Community reserved the right to ask Mauritania for any information needed for scientific purposes.

Furthermore, the 1987 Fisheries Agreement did not define a set amount for the contribution towards awards. However, from 1990, an amount was set for this contribution. This amount was also intended to cover the costs of participating in international meetings or undertaking work placements in the fishing sector, for which a contribution from the Community could be received.

In the Supplement to the Protocol, with fishing opportunities for cephalopods having been granted for the period between 15 November 1995 and 31 July 1996, a total financial contribution of ECU 7 259 000 was set for this period. From this amount, Mauritania was to use ECU 350 000 to fund scientific and technical programmes intended to improve fishing and biological knowledge of the fishing zone, and ECU 150 000 for theoretical and practical training in fisheries-related scientific, technical and economic disciplines.

Under the 1996 Cooperation Agreement, the financial contribution was intended to ensure sustainable development of the sea fisheries sector. The financial contribution amounted to EUR 266.8 million for a five-year period. The use of 98% of this amount (EUR 261.55 million) was left to the discretion of the Mauritanian authorities. The remaining 2% (EUR 5.25 million) was to be used for specific actions associated with health inspection, fisheries scientific research, implementation of the Mauritanian fisheries management policy and maritime training. Each year Mauritania was to use ECU 600 000 to build up health inspection and fisheries research and also to implement its fishery resources management policy. Another ECU 250 000 per year was to be used for maritime training and ECU 200 000 to fund seminars and participate in international meetings or work placements.

Following the 2001 Protocol, the Fisheries Agreement with Mauritania became the most important in financial terms. With funding of EUR 86 million per year, its impact on the budget amounted to EUR 430 million over the five years of the Agreement. Its period of validity was extended from 1 August 2001 to 31 July 2006.

The financial contribution increased by 61%. Qualitative changes were also made to the distribution of the financial contribution. The part left to the discretion of the Mauritanian authorities was only increased by 23%. This part accounted for 98% of the total financial contribution provided for under the 1996 Cooperation Agreement, whereas in 2001 it was

reduced to 77%. With regard to the part intended for specific purposes, in addition to the amount being increased, the range of actions was also expanded, bringing this more into line with the spirit of cooperation governing the Agreement.

The amount for those actions with a specific purpose already included in the 1996 Cooperation Agreement was increased. For example, the contribution towards the organisation of seminars and participation in international meetings was increased by 100%, the amount for research into fishery resources and improving health grew by 33% and the amount for maritime training increased by 20%. Other contributions were created, such as for the monitoring and operation of the Délégation à la Surveillance des Pêches et au Contrôle en Mer (DSPCM), development of statistics, management of seamen taken on board and development of small-scale fishing.

Three actions absorbed 80% of the financial compensation with a specific purpose. The monitoring and operation of the DSPCM absorbed 40%, research into fishery resources and improvement of health received 20% and development of small-scale fishing absorbed another 20%.

Under the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement, the financial contribution was formulated differently and divided into two parts:

- a financial contribution payable for access by Community vessels to Mauritanian fishing zones, without prejudice to the fees payable by Community vessels to obtain licences;
- Community financial support for implementing a national fisheries policy based on responsible fishing and on the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in Mauritanian waters.

The financial contribution laid down by the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement amounted to EUR 86 million per year. In other words, the annual amount of the financial contribution was maintained at the same level as in 2001. From this amount, Mauritania was to use EUR 11 million per year to financially support the establishment of a national fisheries policy, within which annual aid of EUR 1 million was to be used for the Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA). Contrary to previous agreements, the specific use of certain contributions was limited, as the Agreement stipulated that the allocation in the budget of this contribution and the aid to the PNBA would be decided in accordance with the Mauritanian Budget Law and, as result, was the sole responsibility of the Mauritanian State. Furthermore, the percentage for those actions with a specific purpose was reduced from 23% of the financial contribution to 12%.

The part intended to establish a **national fisheries policy** covered actions associated with the management of the fisheries sector:

- support for the controlled development of small-scale and coastal fisheries, in particular by setting up, monitoring and evaluating fisheries development plans;
- programmes to promote a better understanding of fishery resources;
- support for fishing effort management;
- setting up specially adapted laboratories within the IMROP, modernising their equipment and developing systems for computerising and analysing statistics.

It should be noted that more than one-third of this part was to fund the DSPCM (Délégation à la Surveillance des Pêches et au Contrôle en Mer).



The aim was also to accelerate the integration of the fisheries sector in Mauritania's national economy by:

- developing infrastructure, in particular port infrastructure, by means of investment programmes such as the refurbishment of the port of Nouadhibou and Nouakchott fish market for unloading catches from small-scale fishing;
- financial support for the restructuring of the Mauritanian industrial fleet;
- setting up a programme of modernisation of the small-scale fishing fleet to help it meet health and safety standards, including initiatives such as the replacement, in the long term, of wooden canoes with canoes made of more suitable materials and including means of conserving the catch;
- setting up programmes of support and investment with a view to improving fisheries surveillance, such as the creation of mooring pontoons in ports for use by the surveillance authority and IMROP only, and setting up a training programme adapted to monitoring techniques and technologies, in particular VMS;
- implementing programmes and initiatives to promote fisheries products, in particular through measures to improve the health and plant-health conditions of the products landed and processed.

Furthermore, actions were included to reinforce the sector, such as:

- setting up a programme of training and support for improving safety at sea and rescue services, in particular for the small-scale fleet;
- setting up support programmes for the technical services of Mauritania's Ministry of Fisheries and the Marine Economy involved in managing the sector;
- setting up an action plan to improve the effectiveness of the services involved in managing the sector;
- setting up and developing the system for managing licences and monitoring vessels.

To encourage the **economic integration of Community economic operators in the fisheries sector in Mauritania**, this country was to grant incentives to Community shipowners landing catches in Mauritanian ports, in particular through a reduction in fees. It was also decided to set up a task force to identify obstacles to direct Community investment in the fisheries sector in Mauritania, and the opportunities for such direct investment or possibilities of supporting such investment, and the measures easing the conditions governing such investment.

The amount of the **financial contribution** was also amended under the 2008 Fisheries Protocol. Although for the first year it was kept at the EUR 86 million set in 2006, in the second year it would reduce to EUR 76 million, in the third to EUR 73 million and in the fourth to EUR 70 million. However, the amount to be used by Mauritania to implement the national fisheries policy was to increase. Accordingly, in the first year Mauritania was to use EUR 11 million for this purpose, EUR 16 million in the second year, EUR 18 million in the third year and EUR 20 million in the fourth year. Each year EUR 1 million was to be given to the Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA).

In addition, the Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme under the 10th EDF (**European Development Fund**) for Mauritania included, inter alia, estimates of budgetary support of EUR 40 million over a three-year period from 2009 if the requisite conditions were met. In the event of a positive overall performance at the time of the mid-term review of the 10th EDF in 2010, including the sectoral fisheries policy, an increase in the programmable allocation under the 10th EDF could be considered.



### 5.2.5. Payments by Shipowners

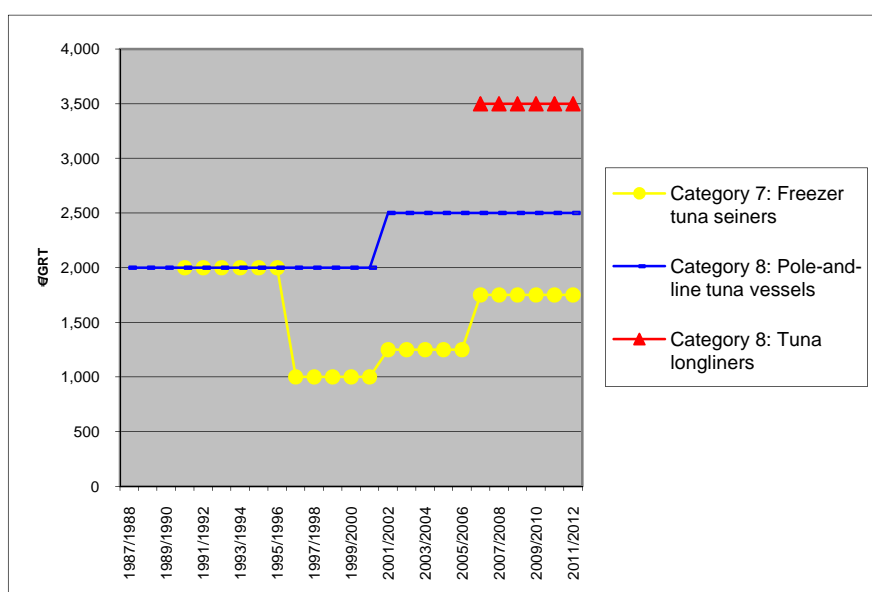
Under the 1987 Fisheries Agreement, in order to obtain a licence valid for 12 months, vessels had to be presented at the port of Nouadhibou and a fee paid. The fees to be paid to Mauritania were considerably higher than those under other agreements applicable at that time.

According to the assessment made by IFREMER in 1999, the fees paid represented 3% of the value of black hake catches, 11% for other demersal species, 9% for cephalopods, 7% for crustaceans and 8% for pelagic trawler catches. The table below shows the fees that had to be paid to obtain a licence.

In 1990 it was established that the lump sum fee of ECU 2 000 for freezer tuna seiners was equivalent to 50 tonnes of tuna instead of the 100 tonnes set for pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners. The advance payment of fees was not common under fisheries agreements. At that time this only applied to the agreements with Mauritania, Cape Verde and São Tomé.

The fee per tonne of tuna caught was set at EUR 20 in 1987. In 2001 it was increased to EUR 25 per tonne.

**Graph 12: Advances to be paid by tuna vessels**



**Source:** Developed by the author. Compiled from the Community Rules

The advance payment for freezer tuna seiners was reduced in 1996, and then increased thereafter. Until 2006 the fee for pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners was identical. However, following the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement, a considerably higher fee was set for surface longliners, both in terms of the advance payment and the fee per tonne caught, which was set at EUR 35 instead of the EUR 25 applicable to pole-and-line vessels. In the case of freezer tuna seiners, the fee per tonne caught was also EUR 35.

Where tuna or swordfish catches were less than the equivalent of the lump sum fee, shipowners could not recover the excess amount paid. In 1987 the Centre National de Recherche Océanographique et des Pêches (CNROP) in Nouadhibou began to verify the volume of catches.

From 1990, control of the quantities caught become bilateral. On the Mauritanian side, the verification continued to be made by the Centre National de Recherche Océanographique et des Pêches (CNROP). On the Community side, it was made by ORSTOM (Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre mer) and the IEO (Instituto Español de Oceanografía). From 2001, if shipowners disputed the tuna catch calculations made by the Mauritanian authorities, they could consult the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) (French Development Research Institute), the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) and the Instituto de Investigação das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR) (Portuguese Fisheries Research Institute). Agreement would then be reached with the Mauritanian authorities on the final calculation.

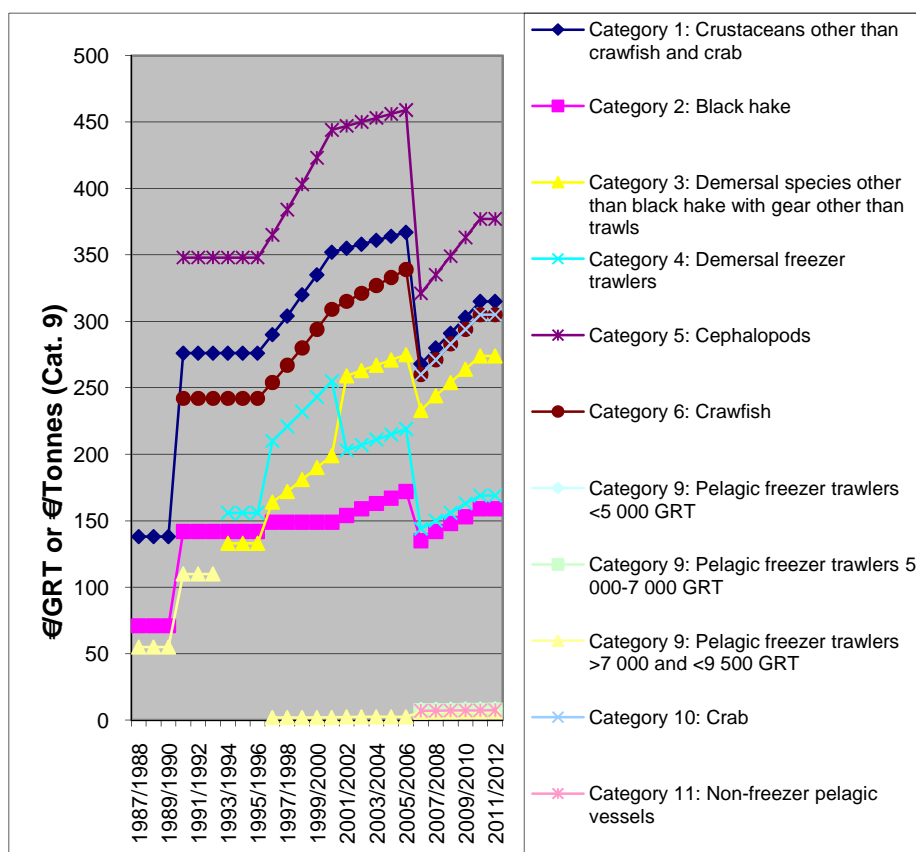
All Community vessels in possession of a licence, except for tuna seiners, were to have a scientific observer on board. The Mauritanian authorities were to indicate every quarter, before issuing any licences, the list of vessels that must have an observer on board. Shipowners were to contribute to the scientific observation costs in the amount of ECU 3 per quarter, per gross registered tonne and per vessel.

Despite the fact that in 1987 no fishing opportunities were offered for black hake or for any other demersal species, a fee was set for obtaining licences. When fishing opportunities were offered, the amount of this fee was doubled.

Although the fees were already high under the 1987 Fisheries Agreement, there was still a 5% increase under the 1996 Cooperation Agreement. By the end of this Agreement, the fees had increased by 28% for all fisheries except for black hake. For the latter, the fee had remained the same throughout the period of the Agreement. For tuna vessels, the fee was kept at ECU 20 per tonne caught. In the case of pelagic trawlers, where the maximum allowable catch was exceeded, shipowners had to pay ECU 18 per tonne.

Under the 2001 Protocol, the fees to be paid by shipowners to obtain licences were also increased between 2001 and 2006. In the case of tuna vessels and pelagic trawlers, the fee was increased by 25%. The fee for black hake fishing increased by 15%, for other demersal species using trawls by 10% and using gear other than trawls between 8% and 12%. The fee for crawfish fishing increased by 10%, whereas, for crustaceans other than crawfish, the increase was 4%, and 3% for cephalopods.

Under the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement, the **fees to obtain licences for Categories 1 (crustaceans other than crawfish and crab) and 2 (black hake)** were reduced by 14% and 8% respectively between those stipulated for the fifth year of the 2001 Protocol and 2012. Up to 2001, the fees for **Category 3 (demersal species other than black hake with gear other than trawls)** were split into two categories according to the tonnage of vessels: more than or less than 100 GRT. Under the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement this division was eliminated. The fees for **Categories 4, 5 and 6 (demersal freezer trawlers, cephalopods and crawfish)** were reduced by 23%, 18% and 10% respectively.

**Graph 13: Fees to be paid by vessels other than tuna vessels**

Source: Developed by the author. Compiled from the Community Rules

For **Category 9 (pelagic freezer trawlers)**, the fees were increased by EUR 2.5/GRT to between EUR 6.5 and EUR 8.5, as this category was divided into three segments according to the tonnage of vessels (under 5 000 GRT, between 5 000 and 7 000 GRT, and between 7 000 and 9 500 GRT). For **Category 10 (crab fishing)**, a fee was set which increased from EUR 260/GRT in the first year to EUR 305/GRT in the sixth year. For **non-freezer pelagic vessels (Category 11)**, the fee increased from EUR 7 to EUR 7.5/GRT.

The 2008 Fisheries Protocol maintained the **licence fees** for tuna vessels at the levels set for 2008 in the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement. However, those applicable to pelagic species were increased by 4% and those for demersal species, crustaceans and cephalopods by 8%. In addition, the fees for small pelagic species were considerably increased if the total allowable catches were exceeded.

It is estimated that the fees will amount to EUR 60 million for the 2008-2012 period covered by the current Protocol.

#### 5.2.6. Joint Committee

The **Joint Committee** began to assume importance in 1990. It is responsible, inter alia, for studying the terms of business cooperation, the provisions on the employment of Mauritanian seamen and the possibility of transshipping catches for crustacean fishing vessels.

The 1996 Cooperation Agreement strengthened the Joint Committee to ensure that the Agreement was correctly applied. Its main functions were:

- supervise the implementation, interpretation and proper working of the Agreement, and the settlement of disputes;
- constitute the necessary point of contact in matters of common interest regarding the fisheries sector;
- evaluate the results of the cooperation with regard to supervision;
- examine the conduct of landings and transshipments by Community vessels in Mauritanian ports;
- examine the application of arrangements for cooperation to combat illegal fishing and for administrative cooperation to ensure respect for Mauritanian law and the provisions of the Agreement.

The Joint Committee was to meet once a year, alternately in Mauritania and the Community. The possibility of holding extraordinary sessions at the request of either of the Contracting Parties was also stipulated. The issue of the boarding of Community vessels has become the focus of a large part of the Joint Committee's discussions.

Under the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement, the functions of the Joint Committee were considerably clarified:

- monitoring the performance, interpretation and smooth operation of the application of the Agreement, and the settlement of disputes;
- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the contribution of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement to the implementation of Mauritania's sectoral fisheries policy;
- providing the necessary liaison for matters of mutual interest relating to fisheries;
- acting as a forum for the amicable settlement of any disputes regarding the interpretation or application of the Agreement;
- reassessing, where necessary, the level of fishing opportunities and, consequently, of the financial contribution;
- fixing the practical arrangements for administrative cooperation;
- monitoring and evaluating the cooperation between economic operators and proposing, where necessary, ways of promoting it.

Furthermore, a Joint Scientific Committee was set up, the remit of which covered the following activities:

- drawing up an annual scientific report on the fisheries covered by the Agreement;
- identifying and implementing an annual programme dealing with specific scientific issues in order to improve understanding of the state of resources and changes to ecosystems;
- studying, under a procedure agreed by consensus within the Committee, scientific questions which arise in the course of implementing the Agreement;
- carrying out, among other things, and as required, exploratory fishing trips to determine the fishing opportunities and exploitation options which guarantee the conservation of resources and their ecosystem.

In 1990 it was agreed that the Joint Committee should study the possibility of transshipping the catches of crustacean fishing vessels, except for crawfish vessels. In 1993 a prohibition was introduced on having crawfish on board vessels other than crawfish vessels with pots.

A new aspect in 2001 was the introduction of the obligation for demersal trawlers to **land their catch at Mauritanian ports**. This obligation was gradually introduced. In the first

year, eight catches had to be landed, rising to 20 in the fifth year of the Protocol. Catches landed in Nouadhibou benefited from a 25% reduction in the fee.

Under the 2006 Fisheries Partnership Agreement, the **landing of catches in Mauritania** became voluntary. The licence fee was reduced by 25% for vessels landing catches in Mauritania and by 15% for vessels transshipping catches.

At the Joint Committee meeting from 22 to 25 March 2010, it was agreed that, after each catch was landed, the competent authorities would issue the master with a Landing Certificate. This represented a considerable improvement in the application of the Protocol.

#### 5.2.7. Signing-on of Mauritanian Seamen

In 1987 the obligation for 35% of the crew to be of **Mauritanian nationality** was laid down. If the Mauritanian crew accounted for more than 25% but less than 35% of the total crew, shipowners had to pay ECU 200 per month for each Mauritanian seaman not employed up to the 35% quota. This amount was to be used for training Mauritanian fishermen. At the request of the Mauritanian authorities, Community vessels had to take on board a scientific observer as part of the compulsory percentage of Mauritanian crew.

In 1990 shipowners were expressly given the freedom to choose their crew from a list updated by the Mauritanian authorities. In addition, the Joint Committee was instructed to study the provisions on the signing-on of seamen, in particular the possibility of taking officials on board in order to undertake work placements and complete their training. In 1993 the obligation to provide the Ministry of Fisheries and the Marine Economy, every six months, with a list of Mauritanian seamen taken on board each vessel was laid down.

The rules on employing Mauritanian seamen radically changed under the 1996 Cooperation Agreement. Minimum levels were set according to the tonnage of vessels, with a minimum of two seamen for vessels under 200 GRT, and with one more seamen being added for every 50 tonnes up to five seamen. The Mauritanian crew on board pelagic freezer trawlers was set according to the total crew. Vessels with fewer than 30 crew had to take on board at least four Mauritanian seamen. For those vessels with over 30 crew, they had to take on five Mauritanian seamen. In both cases, one of the positions had to be occupied by a scientific observer. A pilot project for satellite tracking was also set up until Mauritania implemented a satellite monitoring system.

In 2006 the **signing-on of Mauritanian seaman** was slightly altered from the 2001 Protocol. As a general rule and for any tonnage of vessels, the requirement was reduced by one person. However, another requirement was established that one of the persons taken on board was to be either an official or an observer. An additional criterion of 37% of the crew and two officials for larger vessels was also laid down.

#### 5.2.8. Boarding of Community Vessels

One of the most serious problems facing Community flagged vessels is the boarding issue. Recently this problem, far from being resolved, has been worsening.

In 1990 conditions were laid down for the **seizure and detention of flag vessels** of a Member State of the Community. Any seizure or detention of vessels had to be reported within 48 hours to the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities to Mauritania and also to the consular representative of the vessel's flag State. The

circumstances and reasons for this seizure or detention had to be reported to the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities to Mauritania. However, in 1993, the obligation to report the seizure or detention of Community vessels to the consular representative of the vessel's flag State was abolished. In the case of the 1996 Cooperation Agreement, the obligation was laid down for a statement of boarding to be drawn up, and a procedure was defined for settling boarding issues.

Given the increasing number of incidents, the infringements by Mauritania of the provisions in Chapter VII of the Protocol, the irrelevance of the reasons alleged for most of the boardings and the procedure used to settle these, this issue has been frequently discussed by the Joint Committee. In 2008 it was agreed to set up a Working Group to assess the procedures for boarding Community vessels. In principle this Working Group was only intended to exist for six months. However, the 2008 coup d'état prevented any progress in this process. Furthermore, given that the boarding problem has continued to be a pressing matter, this Working Group is still necessary.

It is important to understand the context in which boardings of Community vessels occur in order to gain a proper overview of the problem. Firstly, the Mauritanian authority responsible for boardings should be identified. The **DSPCM (Délégation à la Surveillance des Pêches et au Contrôle en Mer)**<sup>4</sup> is an **autonomous body**, which is administratively and financially **independent** of the **Fisheries Ministry**.

By law the DSPCM is responsible for the civil control and surveillance of fishing activities in the Mauritanian territorial waters and continental shelf. It is also responsible for combating marine pollution, fraud and trafficking. Its work includes applying the law on health and safety on vessels and participating in sea rescue operations.

It also carries out other **functions beyond the sphere of fisheries control and maritime activities**. In fact, in June 2010, a parliamentary debate was held on the activities of the DSPCM. These activities extend on occasions to trade and industry. The DSPCM also carries out important activities in terms of public opinion, such as distributing food 'donated by foreign shipowners' to the needy or during Ramadan. On occasions, this food 'donated by foreign shipowners' is also sold at low prices in fish shops. In addition to controlling fishing activity, the DSPCM controls migratory flows, even though on occasions this occurs on land. This function is important given the migration of sub-Saharan populations to the European Union via the Canary Islands.

To fund its operations, the **DSPCM** uses **33% of the amount** stipulated in the **EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement for the support of the fisheries sector**. The person who heads the DSPCM (Cheikh Ould Ahmed) should also be noted, as his closeness to the President of the Republic gives him **significant political influence**.

Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that Mauritanian legislation stipulates that **part of the fines must be paid to the officials involved in the procedure**. These bonuses increased from 7% of the fines in 1989 to 18% from 2009<sup>5</sup>. For minor offences, fines are often in the order of five million ouguiya. This means that, for every fine for a minor offence, the officials involved receive around EUR 2 500. Given the standard of living in Mauritania, this system is lucrative and forms a powerful incentive to carry out boardings.

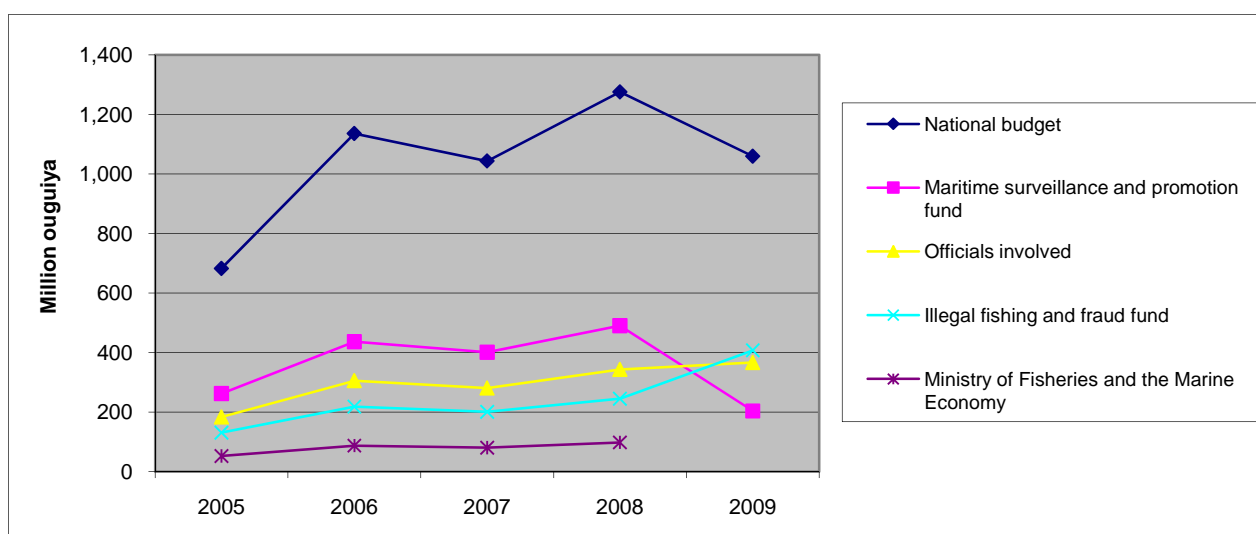
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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.dspcm.mr/Fr/index.php>

<sup>5</sup> DECREE No 2009-053 of 9 February 2009 repealing and replacing Decree No 033-96 of 22 April 1996 amending the provisions of Article 21 of Decree No 89-100 generally implementing Order No 88-144 of 30 October 1988 laying down the Fisheries Code.

In recent years the total fines imposed by the DSPCM have ranged between 2 000 and 2 500 million ouguiya. Up to 2009, the amount received from these fines was distributed between the national budget (52%), the maritime surveillance and promotion fund (10%), the officials involved in the procedure (14%), the illegal fishing and fraud fund (20%) and the Ministry of Fisheries and the Marine Economy (4%). Since Decree No 2009-053 entered into force, the share for the Ministry of Fisheries and the Marine Economy has disappeared, thus increasing the financial independence of the DSPCM, whereas the percentages for the illegal fishing and fraud fund (20%) and for the officials involved in the procedure (18%) have been increased.

**Graph 14: Distribution of the product of fines**



Source: DSPCM, developed by the author.

The EU and Mauritania have agreed that the Mauritanian authorities should **send the EU Delegation** in Nouakchott the inspection reports, statements of boarding and any other relevant documentation, in addition to making the report required by the Protocol. This obligation has been reiterated in the Joint Committee. However, the DSPCM is still not sending the inspection reports to the EU Delegation. Other obligations under the Protocol, such as time-limits and duration of inspections, are also not being respected by the DSPCM. The inspections are too numerous and take too much time, which creates a general feeling of harassment among Community vessels.

At the Joint Committee meeting held from 22 to 25 March 2010, it was agreed to instruct the EU-DSPCM Working Group to monitor these boardings. The need for scrupulous compliance with the boarding procedure and for the Mauritanian authorities to provide all information on each case (report of the boarding, inspection report, verbal procedure and sanction) was also highlighted. The European Commission proposed that the shipowner should be able to appoint its representative on the Settlement Committee, which is responsible for determining the guilt of vessels and the sanction imposed. This representative could be a European or national official and not, as to date, solely the shipping agent for the vessel. So far Mauritania has not responded to this proposal.

According to the Protocol, following an inspection there should be an opportunity to comment on the inspection report. Shipowners frequently find themselves having to pay the fine, otherwise their vessels will be sent to port and detained, with higher fines then



being imposed. In this case, the only option is to sign the inspection report and accept the fine imposed by the Settlement Committee.

In addition to their economic impact, these fines involve vessels being detained for around two days in port, resulting in the deterioration of their catch, as the procedure required to pay the fine involves a SWIFT bank transfer, the issue of a certificate by the Central Bank of Mauritania and its presentation to the Public Treasury and the DSPCM before the vessel can be released.

Otherwise, legal proceedings are brought, which tend to be extremely lengthy and involve costs associated with the lack of activity, operational costs, possible loss of catches and deterioration of the vessel. As this situation leaves shipowners without any practical defence, they find themselves having to settle the boardings by paying the fines, and can then return to fishing or at least take their catch to port.

The Settlement Committee is chaired by the DSPCM and does not meet regularly. The shipowner is represented by the shipping agent, who is not given any alternative other than to accept the fine imposed. Furthermore, the shipowners' representatives must opt for the urgent procedure and pay the fines proposed by the Settlement Committee straightaway, to avoid the vessel being out of action until a ministerial decision on the fine is signed and published.

The most important aspect in all this is the unjustified nature of most of the boardings, in which disproportionate fines are applied for minor documentary or procedural irregularities, where these even exist. It is therefore important to briefly analyse these boardings.

From the start of 2010 up to September, the DSPCM carried out 70 boardings of Community vessels. With regard to the **reasons for these boardings**, it appears that in 25% of the cases errors in the **transmission of the vessel's position** were alleged. Although the Protocol allows various transmission formats, in 14% of these cases it was said that the https format was not used. In another 11% of cases, it was said that the transmission was not made in the format stipulated in the Protocol. This problem is more common in Categories 5 (cephalopods) and 1 (crustaceans other than crawfish and crab). It also occurs in a large number of cases in Category 9 (pelagic trawlers). This problem has affected Italian, Latvian and Irish vessels.

In another 20% of the boardings, the reason invoked was **fishing in a prohibited zone**. This case is similar to the case of transmitting the vessel's position. Although the Protocol provides for a satellite tracking system, the Mauritanian authorities maintain that sighting at sea by a patrol boat or the echo provided by a radar situated on land is more reliable than the VMS satellite tracking system. Boardings have been carried out even though the satellite data proved that the vessels were operating in authorised zones. As far as the EU is concerned, the Protocol must be respected and the VMS system must be used, as both parties have agreed on this. In most cases, this problem affects pelagic trawlers and, to a much lesser extent, vessels fishing for crustaceans or cephalopods. These incidents have in most cases affected Lithuanian, Spanish and Latvian vessels.

Some 14% of cases involved alleged **errors in the daily fishing log**. In general, these involved alleged minor documentary problems or even small stains. These problems have mostly affected vessels fishing for crustaceans and, to a lesser extent, pelagic trawlers or vessels fishing for cephalopods. The vessels involved in this type of incident were Italian,



Spanish or Lithuanian flagged vessels, although a Dutch vessel and a Portuguese vessel were also boarded.

The other types of incident involved isolated cases. The description of the reasons for most of the incidents give credence to the allegations of harassment and unjustified boardings.

It is also interesting to compare the boardings carried out in 2010 with those in other years to understand the development of this problem. In quantitative terms, compared to the 70 boardings in the first nine months of 2010, in 2002 there were 34, 42 in 2003 and 29 in 2004. The increase in the number of boardings is therefore evident.

In qualitative terms, bearing in mind the reasons for the boardings, the situation is also radically different. Compared to the reasons described above, 69% of all boardings in the 2002-2004 period involved fishing for juveniles. Some 13% of boardings were due to a failure to comply with the time-limits for reporting at the crossing point and only 8% to issues connected with the daily fishing log. As a result, it must be concluded that the criteria have changed and that boardings are being carried out more on pretexts than on circumstances involving the conservation of resources.

The Mauritanian position is simple. It is a question of national sovereignty and the EU has no right to interfere in how Mauritanian laws are applied.



## 6. FISHERIES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND THIRD COUNTRIES

### KEY FINDINGS

- The exploitation of Mauritanian fishery resources began through agreements with other countries.
- These fisheries agreements have provided a substantial part of the income in Mauritania's budget and have contributed to the development of the fisheries sector and its integration in the Mauritanian economy.
- In the late 1960s, agreements were concluded with **Japan** on cephalopod fishing and pole-and-line and longline tuna fishing. However, Japan has gradually lost interest in the Mauritanian fishing ground. Currently, Mauritania has an agreement with the Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association.
- Relations with **China** are extensive and based on the creation of joint enterprises and the construction of infrastructure. The perception of the relations with China is in general much better than that for other countries with which fisheries cooperation or partnership agreements are maintained.
- Mauritania signed its first agreement with the **Soviet Union** in 1974. This agreement focused on fishing for small pelagic species. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, most of the Soviet fleet that was operating in Mauritanian waters became Ukrainian, Latvian or Lithuanian flagged vessels.
- In 2003 the **Russian Federation** concluded a renewable five-year Cooperation Agreement focusing on the small pelagic species.
- Also in 2003, Mauritania and **Ukraine** concluded a Cooperation Agreement.
- Mauritania and **Senegal** have a bilateral agreement which allows 250 wooden-hulled Senegalese vessels to fish in Mauritanian waters. These vessels also suffer from the boarding problem, which generally stems from the fact that 15% of their catches are not landed in Mauritania.
- In 1985 a **Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (SRCF)** was set up, consisting of Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. Its objectives are to harmonise over time the policies of the Member States on conservation, preservation and exploitation of their fishery resources and to reinforce their cooperation for the benefit of their respective populations.
- In 1991 the **Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fish Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE)** was set up in Abidjan. The founding members of INFOPÊCHE were Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

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In the late 1960s, agreements were concluded with **Japan** on cephalopod fishing and pole-and-line and longline tuna fishing. However, Japan has gradually lost interest in the

Mauritanian fishing ground. In September 2007 Mauritania and the Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association concluded an agreement. As a result, this agreement is not binding on the States. It also does not fall within the context of the charter-parties that are sometimes signed between certain vessels and Mauritanian individuals or companies. This agreement authorises fishing by 20 Japanese longliners. It is valid for three years and may be renewed. The Japanese vessels must pay USD 5 000 per month per tonne caught. The authorised fishing zone is further from the coast than under the EU's Agreement, and live-bait fishing is not permitted.

Since its independence, Mauritania has maintained good relations with **China**. Their trade and technical assistance relations have been and are extensive. In particular, China's role is very important in the construction of infrastructure, such as the construction of Nouakchott port or the mining railway.

Mauritania has many agreements with China on the creation of joint enterprises involved in the construction of infrastructure or transfer of fleets, which involve huge financial sums. At the beginning of the 1990s, given that the Mauritanian cephalopod fleet was ageing, China exported several hundred cephalopod trawlers. The perception of the relations with China is in general much better than that for other countries with which fisheries cooperation or partnership agreements are maintained.

On 14 March 2010 an agreement was signed between Mauritania and the Chinese state group Poly Technologies Inc. The Chinese group has undertaken to invest in the fisheries sector to the tune of USD 100 million. These investments, which are to be made over a year, include a processing facility with a production capacity of 44 000 tonnes per year, the construction of vessels suited to coastal and small-scale fishing, and the development of high added value products from small pelagic species. It is estimated that these investments will generate around 2 500 jobs. Poly Technologies Inc. will also install electricity in 24 villages using solar power.

Mauritania signed its first agreement with the **Soviet Union** in 1974. This agreement focused on fishing for small pelagic species. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the situation changed radically, as most of the Soviet fleet that was operating in Mauritanian waters became Ukrainian, Latvian or Lithuanian flag vessels.

On 27 June 1993 Mauritania and the **Russian Federation** concluded a Cooperation Agreement in the fisheries sector. This Agreement was valid until 31 December 1996 and could be renewed for three-year periods unless terminated by one of the parties. The Russian Federation was to provide technical and economic assistance to develop the fisheries sector and exploit the fishery resources on the basis of annual contracts. For its part, Mauritania was to guarantee Russian vessels appropriate conditions for fishing in the waters under its jurisdiction. The main instrument for applying the Agreement was the 'Mavsov' Russian-Mauritanian Partnership.

A new Fisheries Agreement was concluded between Mauritania and the Russian Federation on 12 May 2003. This Agreement was valid for three years and could be renewed for three-year periods unless terminated by one or both parties. It covered the pelagic species, regulating fishing, transshipments, processing and marketing. The Agreement stipulated that Russian vessels were authorised to fish under the conditions laid down by licences, that resources would be jointly exploited and that Mauritania would provide port services to the Russian vessels.

**Ukraine** and Mauritania concluded a Cooperation Agreement in the fisheries sector on 4 December 2003. The Agreement was ratified by Ukraine on 14 April 2004 and was valid for five years. It regulated the inspection of fishing, transshipments, vessel repair and scientific research. Ukrainian vessels could operate if they held a licence, which had to be kept on board ready for inspection by the DSPCM. To optimise the efficiency of fishing and reduce the impact on the marine environment, both parties undertook to define and apply a system for controlling fishing operations. Ukraine undertook to provide assistance with port infrastructure, transshipments and processing in order to increase the added value of catches. For its part, Mauritania was to ensure that fishing occurred in accordance with the contracts and agreements and to provide access to port facilities.

Mauritania and **Senegal** have a bilateral agreement which allows 250 wooden-hulled Senegalese vessels to fish in Mauritanian waters. These catch pelagic species, but are not authorised to fish for grey mullet. In the main they land their catches at the port of Saint Louis in Senegal. These vessels also suffer from the boarding problem, which generally stems from the fact that 15% of their catches are not landed in Mauritania.

On 29 March 1985 a **Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (SRCF)** was set up, consisting of Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. This Commission's objectives are to harmonise over time the policies of the Member States on conservation, preservation and exploitation of their fishery resources and to reinforce their cooperation for the benefit of their respective populations. The Commission's bodies are: Conference of Ministers, Coordinating Committee and Permanent Secretariat.

This sub-regional cooperation was reinforced on 1 September 1993 by the Convention on the exercise of maritime hot pursuit by the fisheries control and surveillance authorities of the Member States. Furthermore, on 30 December 1996 a Convention regulating fishing in the waters of the Member States was also adopted.

On 29 June 2010, on the initiative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the SRCF formed a network of experts to reinforce its negotiating capacity in agreements, with a view to negotiating regional agreements with the EU. The secretariat of the network is headed by Ibrahima Niamadio, who also coordinates the WWF's sustainable fisheries programme. In addition to scientific and technical aspects, the network of experts is intended to support negotiations, discussions and communications.

On 13 December 1991 the **Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE)** was created in Abidjan. The founding members of INFOPÊCHE were Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The objectives of INFOPÊCHE are to:

- contribute to the development and modernisation of the fisheries sector;
- improve the balance of availability of fishery products;
- optimise export opportunities within and outside Africa;
- promote technical and economic cooperation.

The Mauritanian economy is hugely dependent on foreign aid. In addition to the aid included in the EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement, the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) allocated EUR 40 million for three years from 2009. However, the

schedule was changed by the 2008 coup d'état, as the work to implement the programme was suspended. In addition, donors other than the European institutions provide funding for fisheries-related investments.

**Table 5: Fisheries-related development aid actions during 2010**

Donor	Activity	Amount (million ouguiya)
Spain	Extension of Nouadhibou port	2 130.6
	Project supporting the sustainable development of small-scale fishing activities	300.0
	Fisheries surveillance	
Germany	GTZ - Consultancy in the fisheries sector (management plans, shellfish farming, fresh pelagic fishing)	2.0 (2010-13)
	KFW - Fisheries surveillance	7.0 (2009-13)
	GTZ - Natural resources management programme	14.8 (2005-11)
France	Fisheries management plans	700.0
	Development of small-scale fishing	
	Fisheries surveillance	
	Sustainable management of fishery resources	
	Diawling Park	
	Banc d'Arguin	
	Banc d'Arguin ecosystem research	
Japan	Extension and repair of pontoons and small-scale port infrastructure at Nouadhibou	1 250.0
	Purchase of research vessels	
	Extension of Nouakchott fish market	
	Improvement of health quality of fishery products	
	Technical assistance with fishing	
IDB	Development pole with small-scale fishing port at Tanit	2 740.0
OPEC	Development pole with small-scale fishing port at Tanit	

**Source:** Joint Annual Report 2009. June 2010

Funding has also been granted for other actions associated with Nouakchott port, but this infrastructure will probably have little or no impact on fishing activity. This is the case with MRO 26 444 million invested by China in the construction of the Port de l'Amitié (Nouakchott) and various extensions, as well as MRO 586 million invested by the World Bank in extending the autonomous port of Nouakchott.

## NOTES







## DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES

# POLICY DEPARTMENT **B** STRUCTURAL AND COHESION POLICIES

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The Policy Departments are research units that provide specialised advice to committees, inter-parliamentary delegations and other parliamentary bodies.

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- Agriculture and Rural Development
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